Request Submission Date: April 24, 2020

1. **State Agency:** Georgia Department of Education

   **Contact Information:**
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   State Director, School Nutrition
   Georgia Department of Education
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2. **Region:** Southeast Regional Office (SERO)

3. **Eligible Service Providers:** Georgia is requesting a subsequent waiver from the current 4-year Administrative Review (AR) approved in 2018 to extend the AR cycle for another year to a 5-year review cycle.

4. **Description of Challenge:** The Georgia Department of Education, School Nutrition Program (GaDOE SNP) is facing a reduction in experienced personnel responsible for conducting Administrative Reviews (AR), technical assistance, training, and support for SFA’s. The staff vacancies will be filled with new hires who will require training with the state agency, which will put undue stress on our experienced personnel to train the new hires while meeting the current, approved 4-year waiver AR cycle, provide technical assistance, training and other monitoring as required for all SFA’s. We currently have five Administrative Reviews that will be rescheduled for the 2021 school year and seven follow up reviews in 2021. The addition of these Administrative Reviews and follow up reviews will bring our total Administrative Reviews for 2021 to seventy-seven. The extension of the current waiver from 4 to 5 years will allow us to reduce the number of reviews for our current 4-year cycle with over sixty reviews per year, not including CEP (Community Eligibility Provision) validation reviews, to forty-five or less per year if we are granted approval for a 5 year cycle. This will allow new staff to be trained while we continue to provide needed technical assistance, training and monitoring for all SFAs (School Food Authorities), as well as those with upcoming Administrative Reviews.

5. **Specific Program Requirements:** 7 CFR 210.18 (c)
6. **Detailed Description of Alternative Procedures/Anticipated Impact:** The allowance of this waiver request would provide the Georgia Department of Education School Nutrition Program more time to dedicate to technical assistance for SFAs overall but especially for those SFAs that need the individual attention and training. The waiver will allow continued monitoring of SFAs outside of the Administrative Review when it is required or needed. See additional information provided in #4 above.

7. **Description of any steps the State has taken to address regulatory barriers at the State level:**
   Since the implementation of the current 4-year waiver, Georgia has continued to struggle with maintaining experienced personnel due to retirement, promotion or employees that have chosen another career path. In addition, due to personnel transitions within GaDOE and changes to hiring procedures it has taken longer to get open positions posted so that they could be filled. If Georgia is approved for a 5-year waiver, Georgia will be able to accomplish the following:
   a. Increase the number of trainings for SFAs and State staff.
   b. Increase technical assistance and specialized training for new schools to help with retention and compliance. This type of attention has suffered with the 4-year cycle because of the reduced time available to assist these schools.
   c. Increase outreach for CEP, Provision 2, Seamless Summer Option and Breakfast which have declined due to the number of hours dedicated to completing over 60 AR’s, CEP validations (30+), Provision 2 base year, SSO reviews (40+) annually.
   d. New software was implemented this year for AR’s and we continue to transition other pieces to the new software with completion anticipated in June of 2021. The 5-year cycle will allow for a smooth transition and the completion of necessary training for State staff and SFAs.

8. **Anticipated challenges State or eligible service providers may face with the waiver implementation:** GaDOE SNP does not anticipate any barriers at the State level or eligible service provider level upon approval of the said waiver request.

9. **Description of how the waiver will not increase the overall cost of the Program to the Federal Government:** GaDOE SNP does not anticipate any increased cost to the Federal Government upon approval of the said waiver request.

10. **Anticipated waiver implementation date and time-period:**
    
    *Requested Waiver Timeframe:*
    
    - Waiver Request Start Date: April 27, 2020
    - Waiver Request End Date: June 30, 2023, or as required by USDA.

11. **Proposed monitoring and review procedures:** GaDOE SNP will follow the review procedures in accordance with 7 CFR 210.18. Training/technical assistance/site visits will be conducted in accordance with USDA regulations.
12. **Proposed reporting requirements to FNS:** All FNS required reports will be submitted in a timely manner as governed by USDA requirements. GaDOE SNP will also provide any and all additional reporting requirements that might be needed as a result of approval of said waiver.

13. **Link to or a copy of the public notice informing the public about the proposed waiver:**
   a. A copy of the public notice can be found on the GaDOE SNP website at: http://snp.wpgadoe.org/

14. **Signature and title of requesting official:**

   ![Signature]

   **Title:** Dr. Linette Dodson, RD, LD, SNS, FAND  
   State Director, School Nutrition  
   Georgia Department of Education

   **Requesting official’s email address for transmission of response:** ldodson@doe.k12.ga.us

**TO BE COMPLETED BY FNS REGIONAL OFFICE:**

FNS Regional Offices are requested to ensure the questions have been adequately addressed by the State agency and formulate an opinion and justification for a response to the waiver request based on their knowledge, experience, and work with the State.

Date request was received at Regional Office:  

Check this box to confirm that the State agency has provided public notice in accordance with Section 12(l)(1)(A)(ii) of the NSLA

Regional Office Analysis and Recommendations: