

SUBJECT: Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Policy Memorandum #16-99:
Continuous School Calendar and Year-Round SFSP

TO: Regional Directors
Child Nutrition Programs
All Regions

This memorandum clarifies the eligibility of year-round programs providing SFSP meals to students from schools which are in session on a year-round, or continuous school calendar, basis. This memorandum is effective upon issuance, and will remain in effect until superseded by regulation or future guidance.

The definition of “continuous school calendar” at Section 225.2 was promulgated in an attempt to ensure that only programs serving students from schools which operated on a year-round basis could participate in SFSP outside of the normal summer months. Thus, the definition of a school with a “continuous school calendar” requires that all or part of the school’s student body be (1) on vacation for 15 or more consecutive school days during the period October through April and (2) in attendance at regularly scheduled classes during most of the period May through September. When this definition was promulgated, the few schools operating on a year-round basis were in session for 60 days, then “off-track” for 15 days, throughout the year.

It has come to our attention that, since many more schools now operate regular classes on a year-round basis, there is much wider variation in the calendars they follow. In some cases, schools or school systems on a year-round calendar have one or more off-track periods of fewer than 15 days.

Therefore, this memorandum authorizes State agencies to waive the 15-consecutive school day requirement in the definition of “Continuous school calendar” set forth at Section 225.2, provided that the school/school system is operating regular class sessions (i.e., not summer school or remedial classes for a portion of the student body) on a year-round basis. State agencies granting such waivers need only inform their regional office of the number of sites affected by such waivers. Regional offices will provide this information to headquarters. State agencies with questions concerning the appropriateness of allowing SFSP meal service during the period of October through April should contact their regional office for assistance.

Please share this information with the State agencies in your region as quickly as possible. Please contact Ed Morawetz or Melissa Rothstein of my staff if you have any questions concerning this guidance.

/ORIGINAL SIGNED/

STANLEY C. GARNETT
Director
Child Nutrition Division