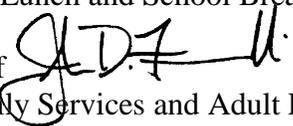




STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Sponsors of the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs

FROM: John D. Frassinelli, Bureau Chief 
Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education

DATE: June 12, 2019

SUBJECT: **Operational Memorandum No. 10-19**
Requirements for Lunch Periods in the National School Lunch Program
(NSLP)

This memorandum serves as a reminder of the state and federal requirements for lunch periods in public schools, private schools, and residential child care institutions (RCCIs) that participate in the NSLP.

- Connecticut law ([Section 10-221o](#) of the Connecticut General Statutes) requires that all public school districts must provide a daily lunch period of at least 20 minutes for all full-day students. Section 10-221o applies only to the full school day. If a school schedules a half-day or has early dismissal due to weather or other reasons, a lunch period is not required since the school is not operating for a full day. **Note:** This state statute does not apply to private schools and RCCIs.
- All public schools, private schools, and RCCIs participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) must offer lunches between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., unless the local educational agency (LEA) requests a waiver for alternate times, and the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) approves the LEA's waiver request. **Note:** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) allows this waiver only for two specific situations. For more information, refer to the CSDE's [Circular Letter C-9: Federal and State Requirements for Provision and Timeframe of Daily Lunch Period for Students](#).
- Public schools, private schools, and RCCIs participating in the NSLP have the discretion to determine the timing of lunch served to students on half-days and early dismissal days (i.e., prior to 10:00 a.m.), without prior approval from the CSDE.

The CSDE strongly encourages LEAs to provide time to offer lunch to students on half-days and early dismissal days. Providing lunch to students on half-days and early dismissal days ensures that students have access to a healthy mid-day meal. This is especially critical for low-income students, who may not have access to a complete healthy meal in the evening. Serving reimbursable lunches on these days also generates additional revenue for the school nutrition program.

For more information regarding the state and federal laws pertaining to lunch periods and waiver requests, refer to the CSDE’s [Circular Letter C-9: Federal and State Requirements for Provision and Timeframe of Daily Lunch Period for Students](#).

Please share this memorandum with district administrators to ensure compliance with the federal and state regulations.

Questions may be directed to your school nutrition consultant.

Consultants for School Nutrition Programs	
County	Consultant
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fairfield County (Includes Region 9) Litchfield County (Includes Regions 1, 6, 7, 12, and 14) 	Fionnuala Brown fionnuala.brown@ct.gov 860-807-2129
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hartford County (Includes Region 10) Middlesex County (Includes Regions 4, 13, and 17) 	Teri Dandeneau teri.dandeneau@ct.gov 860-807-2079
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Haven County (Includes Regions 5, 15, and 16) 	Jackie Schipke jackie.schipke@ct.gov 860-807-2123
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New London County Tolland County (Includes Regions 8 and 19) Windham County (Includes Region 11) 	Susan Alston susan.alston@ct.gov 860-807-2081

JDF:tdd

Important: This is a numbered Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) operational memorandum that contains important program information. Please read carefully and retain for future reference. All CSDE operational memoranda are posted on the CSDE’s [Operational Memoranda for School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.