

# Child Nutrition Reauthorization

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### **Q: What will be the Academy be recommending for the next Child Nutrition Reauthorization in light of the COVID-19 pandemic?**

A: The Academy supports authorizing the USDA Secretary to make nationwide waivers in response to emergency situations such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Waivers during the pandemic allowed for:

1. Children to eat free and outside of cafeterias and set mealtimes
2. Curbside meal pick up by parents, even if the child were not present with them
3. Meals to be dropped off at student's home if they participated in virtual learning
4. The reimbursement rate to be increased from \$3.60 per lunch served to the summer rate of \$4.25 per meal due to new packaging and transportation costs
5. Flexibility on the types of foods served
6. Participants to enroll/re-enroll in WIC without visiting a clinic in person
7. WIC agencies to issue benefits remotely

See: [WIC COVID-19 Waivers](#) (USDA-FNS); [Child Nutrition COVID-19 Waivers](#) (USDA-FNS)

### **Q: Why is it critical to pass Child Nutrition Reauthorization in the 117th U.S. Congress?**

A: As the last Child Nutrition Reauthorization occurred more than 10 years ago, nutrition standards are still based off the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* issued in 2010. The *Guidelines* have been updated twice since then, thus nutrition standards need to be updated as well. The COVID-19 pandemic has provided us with a learning opportunity for crucial federal nutrition programs and now is the time to incorporate what we've learned into Child Nutrition Reauthorization.

### **Q: How will the American Families Plan impact the Child Nutrition Reauthorization?**

A: The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the need to invest in critical nutrition programs to address nutrition insecurity, which has disproportionately impacted communities of color. The plan includes provisions that would support American families by:

- Expanding the summer Electronic Benefit Transfer program to provide families with access to healthy food during the summer
- Increasing access to school meals through the Community Eligibility Program, which is a program that helps schools provide healthy school meals to all students
- Providing money to school districts to help meet and exceed strong nutrition standards in their child nutrition programs.
- The Academy believes these nutrition provisions would be an important step in addressing the country's nutrition insecurity crisis.

Read more [here](#).