1. State agency submitting waiver request and responsible State agency staff contact information:

Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS)
Stacy Koppen, Nutrition Services Director
651-603-4945
Stacy.koppen@spps.org

Minnesota Department of Education
Deb Lukkonen, Supervisor of School Nutrition Programs
Nutrition, Health and Youth Development Division
651-582-8228
Debra.j.lukkonen@state.mn.us

2. Region: Midwest

3. Eligible service providers participating in waiver and affirmation that they are in good standing:

Saint Paul Public Schools. SPPS is in good standing as a School Food Authority in the state of Minnesota.

4. Description of the challenge the State agency is seeking to solve, the goal of the waiver to improve services under the Program, and the expected outcomes if the waiver is granted. [Section 12(l)(2)(A)(iii) and 12(l)(2)(A)(iv) of the NSLA]:

On August 21, 2019, SPPS received a waiver from USDA to participate in Provision 2 with a streamline base year for breakfast at 16 schools. See attached USDA waiver titled, *Saint Paul Public Schools: Streamlined Provision 2 Base Year Waiver Response*. USDA allowed SPPS to utilize monthly claiming percentages based on the number of reimbursable lunches served by type (free, reduced-price and paid) in each month during the base year to establish an annual breakfast claiming percentage.

Due to COVID-19, SPPS was providing meals via the Summer Food Service Program for distance learning from March – June, 2020.

SPPS is requesting that USDA allow the 2019-2020 school year to serve as the Provision 2 base year for breakfast at the 16 sites, given the already existing waiver and the challenges anticipated for the 2020-2021 school year.

Furthermore, SPPS is requesting that one additional site, E-Stem School, be allowed to also utilize 2019-2020 data to establish the Provision 2 base year. This site was known to be participating in a regular Provision 2 base year for breakfast and was not included in the waiver request because it was the first time the site participated in Provision 2. A regular base year of breakfast counts by category, free, reduced-price and paid
was established for the months of September, 2019-February, 2020 at this site and the Minnesota Department of Education approved the site application for Provision 2 base year at breakfast for the 2019-2020 school year.

5. Specific Program requirements to be waived (include statutory and regulatory citations). [Section 12(l)(2)(A)(i) of the NSLA]:

7 CFR 245.9 (b)

6. Detailed description of alternative procedures and anticipated impact on Program operations, including technology, State systems, and monitoring:

SPPS will follow the procedures outlined in the USDA waiver approval dated August 21, 2019.

7. Description of any steps the State has taken to address regulatory barriers at the State level. [Section 12(l)(2)(A)(ii) of the NSLA]:

MDE has worked with SPPS to identify current ISP’s as of April 1, 2019 and 2020 to determine if the Community Eligibility Provision would be a viable option. For the 17 sites, ISP’s have dropped to levels that are still eligible for CEP, but not recommended based on sustaining a viable foodservice program at these sites. MDE has also worked with SPPS to suggest re-grouping of lower ISP sites with higher ones, but SPPS does not think re-grouping would positively benefit them at this time. It would be more viable for SPPS to capture claiming percentages based on all participants, not just direct certification eligible, making Provision 2 a better option at this time.

8. Anticipated challenges State or eligible service providers may face with the waiver implementation:

SPPS may face lower Federal reimbursement for claiming percentages that lack the March – June, 2020 data. SPPS believes that the claiming percentages would be more accurate than claiming percentages established in the 2020-2021 school year, as it is still unknown what type of educational models will be implemented as a result of COVID-19.

9. Description of how the waiver will not increase the overall cost of the Program to the Federal Government. If there are anticipated increases, confirm that the costs will be paid from non-Federal funds. [Section 12(l)(1)(A)(iii) of the NSLA]:

No additional funds will be provided as a result of this waiver request. Granting the waiver request will prevent the requirement for SPPS to dedicate additional resources toward equipment and staffing which will allow better allocation of current resources.

10. Anticipated waiver implementation date and time period:
The waiver period would cover the Provision 2 base year, July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020 and the subsequent 3 non-base years through June 30, 2023.

11. Proposed monitoring and review procedures:

SPPS received a Provision 2 base year review on November 12, 2019. MDE did not identify any systemic errors SPPS immediately addressed the few findings identified. SPPS will receive an administrative review in the 2020-2021 school year in which the accuracy of meal counting procedures and Provision 2 implementation will be assessed. SPPS will conduct monitoring visits and daily/monthly claim edit checks to ensure meal counting and claiming integrity.

12. Proposed reporting requirements (include type of data and due date(s) to FNS):

MDE and SPPS will adhere to the reporting requirements identified in SP 15-2018 and the USDA waiver approval document.

13. Link to or a copy of the public notice informing the public about the proposed waiver [Section 12(l)(1)(A)(ii) of the NSLA]:

[www.spps.org/domain/11231](http://www.spps.org/domain/11231)

14. Signature and title of requesting official:

SPPS Signature: [Signature]
Title: Director of Nutrition Services
Date: 7/24/20

MDE Signature: [Signature]
Title: Director
Date: July 31, 2020

Title: Nutrition, Health and Youth Development

Requesting official’s email address for transmission of response: See question 1.

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: