

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

Minnesota Department of Education (MDE)
Emily Honer, Director of Nutrition Program Services Division
(o) 651-582-8263
Emily.Honer@state.mn.us

2. Region: Midwest Regional Office (MWRO)

3. Eligible service providers participating in waiver and affirmation that they are in good standing: St. Olaf College, TRIO Upward Bound

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]:

St. Olaf College is not a school food authority. Our implementation of the waiver for the last two summer have allowed students to choose what they wanted while still meeting all the requirements. It allowed service to flow smoothly and gave students a great experience. Participating in offer versus serve has been a positive experience for us, our students, and service providers in the past. We want to continue to reduce waste and food that students do not intend to eat.

5. Specific Program requirements to be waived (include statutory and regulatory citations). [Section 12(l)(2)(A)(i) of the NSLA]: 7 CFR

225.16(f)(1)(ii), [https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-7/part-225#p-225.16\(f\)\(1\)\(ii\)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-7/part-225#p-225.16(f)(1)(ii))

6. Detailed description of alternative procedures and anticipated impact on Program operations, including technology, State systems, and monitoring: If granted the waiver, we will follow all offer-versus-serve guidelines and continue monitoring during all meals. The reimbursements to school food authorities for program meals served under this “offer versus serve” option will not be reduced because children choose not to take all components of the meals that are offered.

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]: Minnesota has not taken steps to address regulatory barriers at the state level.

8. Anticipated challenges State or eligible service providers may face with the waiver implementation: We do not anticipate any challenges that the state or eligible service providers may face with the waiver implementation. Participating in offer versus serve has been a positive experience for us, our students, and service providers in the past.

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]:

The waiver will not increase the overall cost of the program to the federal government. All staff training will occur during training week of June 15th to June 18th, and no additional cost will be incurred.

10. Anticipated waiver implementation date and time period: We would like to implement the waiver beginning this summer, on Monday, June 22, 2026, and continuing through July 23, 2026.

11. Proposed monitoring and review procedures:

All monitors will be trained during the week of June 15th, before the program begins on June 22, 2026. All students will be trained and retrained on June 22nd regarding the offer-versus-serve option.

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

Similar to the past two years, St. Olaf College TRIO Upward Bound will provide a report quantifying the waiver's impact and will include student feedback on the waiver to MDE by December 2026, so MDE can submit it to the FNS Midwest Regional Office.

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]: <https://wp.stolaf.edu/upward/summer/>

14. Signature and title of requesting official :



Nou Yang, St. Olaf College TRIO Upward Bound Associate Director