



TABLE



BREAK for a PLATE
SCHOOLS

TALK



Alabama State Department of Education
Child Nutrition Programs

VOLUME 003

ISSUE 006

January 18, 2024

WebEx Recording

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE WEBEX RECORDING](#)

TABLE TALK

VOLUME 003 · ISSUE 006 · ALABAMA CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

- 
- REVIEWS AND REMINDERS
 - MONTHLY MEMOS
 - TOP TOPICS
 - TRAINING TIDBITS
 - SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

WELCOME

WELCOME CHIMERIA!

Chimeria Givhan joins us as an Education Specialist here in the School Programs section. We are so glad to have her join our team!





REVIEWS AND REMINDERS

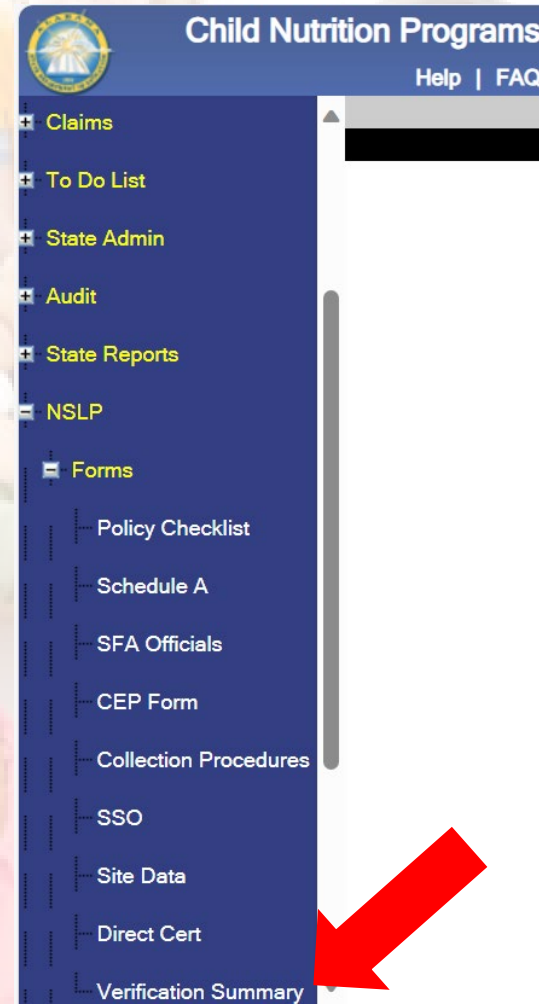
CHAD LANGSTON

TABLE TALK

VOLUME 003 · ISSUE 006 · ALABAMA CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

REVIEWS AND REMINDERS

VERIFICATION SUMMARY REPORT – DUE BY JANUARY 20, 2024



REVIEWS AND REMINDERS

On-site Monitoring Forms

- Must conduct an onsite monitoring review for each of your sites prior to **February 1st.**
- Review forms are available on the Alabama Achieves website.
- FFVP Review forms are also on the website and must be completed by February 1st.

REVIEWS AND REMINDERS

Mathematica is conducting the School Meals Operations (SMO) Study on behalf of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. This is the fourth SMO collection (SMO IV) that concluded earlier this month.

SMO IV includes a survey of a nationally representative sample of school food authorities (SFAs). The deadline for the SFA survey passed on January 10th, and many SFAs have yet not completed their survey.

Mathematica requested ALSDE's assistance contacting the selected SFAs in Alabama to encourage them to complete the survey as soon as possible. If you were selected, please complete the survey or contact Mathematica if you have questions.

Representatives from Mathematica last emailed SFAs a link to the SMO IV web survey on January 11th, 2023.

Use the link in that email or contact us by calling 1-833-440-9475 or emailing SMOStudy@mathematica-mpr.com to retrieve the login information to complete the 30-minute survey.

Participation in this important study is required for all selected SFAs.

Cooperation by States and districts is required under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) (PL 116-127) and Section 28 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act.

If you have any questions, please call 1-833-440-9475 or email SMOStudy@mathematica-mpr.com.

REVIEWS AND REMINDERS

National School Breakfast Week

March 4-8, 2024

Promote your NSBW activities!
Invite parents, school leaders,
community leaders and
representatives to see all the great
things your schools are doing with school breakfast!



REVIEWS AND REMINDERS

Alabama Summer and Afterschool Program (ASAP) Grant

- FY24-2019 – emailed to LEAs on 12/20/23

The Alabama Summer and Afterschool Program (ASAP) grant is funded through the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) to implement or enhance existing afterschool and/or summer learning programs that provide student learning and academic enrichment activities. These programs must include students in any grade configuration of Pre-K–12.

Funds must be used to accelerate student learning in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) and reading. Grant funds may be used to promote academic enrichment, such as activities that support foundational learning, knowledge-building, application of learning in novel ways, homework assistance, tutoring activities, financial literacy, arts education, etc.

If a local education agency (LEA), municipality, or not-for-profit organization wishes to apply, the application opens Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 8 a.m. (CST) and closes on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 5 p.m. (CST). The applications will be submitted via a PowerForm in DocuSign using the following link:

At least 45 grants will be awarded in the amount of up to \$50,000 per program. These grants will be available for implementation upon program notification of award status. The program can begin as early as Monday, February 19, 2024, and must conclude by Monday, September 16, 2024.

REVIEWS AND REMINDERS

Schedule A Revisions Due to Inclement Weather

All Meals Tab

Calendar

14.

Month	Days
JUL - 2023	0
AUG - 2023	17
SEP - 2023	20
OCT - 2023	21
NOV - 2023	16
DEC - 2023	13
JAN - 2024	19
FEB - 2024	20
MAR - 2024	16
APR - 2024	21
MAY - 2024	17
JUN - 2024	0
Total	180

Selected Operating Dates

8/9/2023
8/10/2023
8/11/2023
8/14/2023
8/15/2023
8/16/2023
8/17/2023
8/18/2023
8/21/2023
8/22/2023
8/23/2023
8/24/2023
8/25/2023

July - 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Dates in Red indicate CNP Serving Dates
Dates in Blue indicate CNP Non-Serving Dates
Serving dates may or may not match school calendar
To select or deselect a date click on the date in the above calendar.

☐ Overwrite the calendars for all schools.

REVIEWS AND REMINDERS

Unexpected School Closures

- ALSDE, along with other states was approved for a waiver that will allow SFAs experiencing unexpected school closures and transitioning to virtual learning to provide meals through NSLP to enrolled students.
- USDA/ALSDE does not require SFAs to provide meals on days of unexpected school closures, but in the event, meals are requested by the local administration, email cnpnsfp@alsde.edu and the area specialist requesting the use of this waiver.
- ALSDE must be notified prior to the use of this waiver to approve/deny the request

REVIEWS AND REMINDERS

Paperboard Milk Carton Supply Chain Disruption Resource

UPDATE: School Milk & Supply Chain Challenges School Year 2023-2024

Importance of School Meals & Milk

School meals contribute significantly to the nutrition and health of our nation's youth and to the well-being of families and communities. The nutritional quality of school meals make them a vital resource to nourish nearly 30 million children every school day. According to USDA FNS, children who participate in school meals consume more dairy milk, fruits and vegetables than non-participants and they also consume fewer desserts, snacks and non-milk beverages.¹

Milk plays a critical role in school meals, providing [13 essential nutrients](#) important for growth and development, and about 77% of daily milk consumption for low-income children ages 5-18 comes from the national school meal programs. This underscores the importance of milk as part of school meals to help children meet their nutritional needs for growth and development.²



School Milk Carton Supply Issues

A major supplier of half-pint cartons is experiencing supply chain shortages, which is having an impact on the ability to fulfill school milk orders in some areas. There is no shortage of dairy milk, rather there is a shortage of the half-pint cartons in which most school milk is packaged.

The carton supply challenges are sporadic and milk processors remain committed to finding solutions to provide schools with nutritious and wholesome milk. Although all parties hope the shortage will be alleviated quickly, National Dairy Council has no definitive information about timing. We encourage schools to work with their local milk provider to ensure milk is available to students through school meals.



OPTIONS

To help mitigate some of the supply chain challenges, here are a few potential options:

Communication

- Affected processors have already sent communications to their school customers and are committed to keeping their districts updated.
- It's essential for dairy suppliers to effectively communicate any change or adjustment to orders or deliveries, including changes to fat levels, flavors, quantity, packaging, etc.
- Schools may want to proactively contact their processor to obtain information about whether they are likely to be affected.

Recent Food and Nutrition Service memo

- A recent [USDA FNS memo](#) indicates the following flexibilities for Child Nutrition Programs experiencing supply shortages:³
 - Program operators are expected to meet the fluid milk requirements to the greatest extent possible.
 - Limiting the milk variety requirement or adjusting serving size, would be considered a temporary emergency condition for purposes of this flexibility.
 - State agencies may allow operators to serve meals during an emergency period with an alternate form of fluid milk or without fluid milk.
- FNS instructs state agencies to share the agency's memo with operators. State agencies have the authority to make specific flexibilities available.

Operational options

- Limit the variety of milk options offered.
- Source milk in gallons or half-gallons and pour milk for service.
 - Use 9-ounce cups with or without lids, depending on the service model.
 - Pre-portion milk for elementary students.
 - Self-service option for middle/high school students.
 - Explore the use of milk dispensers
 - Portable [insulated beverage dispenser](#) with a faucet for easy self-service. The insulated server will keep the milk cold and can hold multiple gallons of milk.
 - Traditional [stainless-steel dispenser](#) that is more permanent. Check with your milk processor to ensure they can provide milk in bags in advance.
- Source shelf-stable milk
 - Shelf-stable milk, also known as UHT (Ultra High Temperature) or aseptic milk, is the same milk offered in cartons. The only difference is in the processing and packaging of the product, which is not currently experiencing a supply shortage.
 - **Processing:** Shelf-stable milk is heated to a higher temperature than conventional processing to eliminate 100% of the bacteria. There are no preservatives or additives used to process shelf-stable milk.
 - **Packaging:** Shelf-stable milk is packaged in an airtight, sterile container which does not require refrigeration until the package is open. Therefore, unopened packages can move in/out of coolers and maintain food safety parameters.
 - **Service:** For best taste and student experience, shelf-stable milk should be refrigerated to under 35 degrees before service.
 - **Availability:** Shelf-stable milk is currently available through most dairy processors and food distributors.
 - Having shelf-stable milk on hand can help alleviate worry about potential gaps and assist in contingency planning for supply chain disruptions or bad weather days.

We encourage schools to work with their local milk provider on solutions to ensure milk is available to students through school meals. Please contact your [Local Dairy Council](#) for additional information on dairy's essential role in school meals.

References:
1) USDA FNS Infographic: Lunches Consumed From School Are the Most Nutritious, June 2021. Findings are from the School Nutrition and Meal Cost Study conducted by Mathematica.
2) Cutler & Chen, The contribution of the USDA school breakfast and lunch program meals to student daily dietary intake, Prev Med Rep, 2017
3) USDA FNS Memo: Identification of Allowable Flexibilities for Child Nutrition Programs Experiencing Milk Supply Shortages, October 26, 2023

REVIEWS AND REMINDERS

Milk Disruptions

- If you are unable to meet the meal pattern requirements for milk, be sure to request a waiver from our office.
- These requests cannot be submitted in anticipation of a milk disruption, but upon notification of your vendor that you will experience a disruption
- Keep waivers up to date. If effective dates run out, submit another request as needed.



MONTHLY MEMOS

CHAD LANGSTON

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MONTHLY MEMOS

- ALSDE memo – emailed to all directors on 11/7/23
 - School Food Authorities Milk Disruptions
- ALSDE memo – emailed to all directors on 11/8/23
 - Milk Supply Shortage Survey
- ALSDE memo – emailed to all directors on 11/28/23
 - Additional PowerPoint presentations from Fall Directors' Conference
- ALSDE memo – emailed to all directors on 11/28/23
 - Request for Applications for two Healthy Meal Incentives Initiative School Food System Transformation Challenge Sub-Grants
 - Informational Webinar on November 29, 2023

MONTHLY MEMOS

- ALSDE memo – emailed to all directors on 12/1/23
 - 2024 Farm to School Workshop
- ALSDE Memo – emailed to all directors on 12/5/23
 - Incomplete Farm to School Census
- ALSDE Memo – emailed to all directors on 12/12/23
 - Incomplete Farm to School Census
- ALSDE memo – emailed to all directors on 12/14/23
 - *REMINDER* 2024 Farm to School Workshop
- ALSDE memo – emailed to all directors on 12/18/23
 - UPDATE: School Milk & Supply Chain Challenges

MONTHLY MEMOS

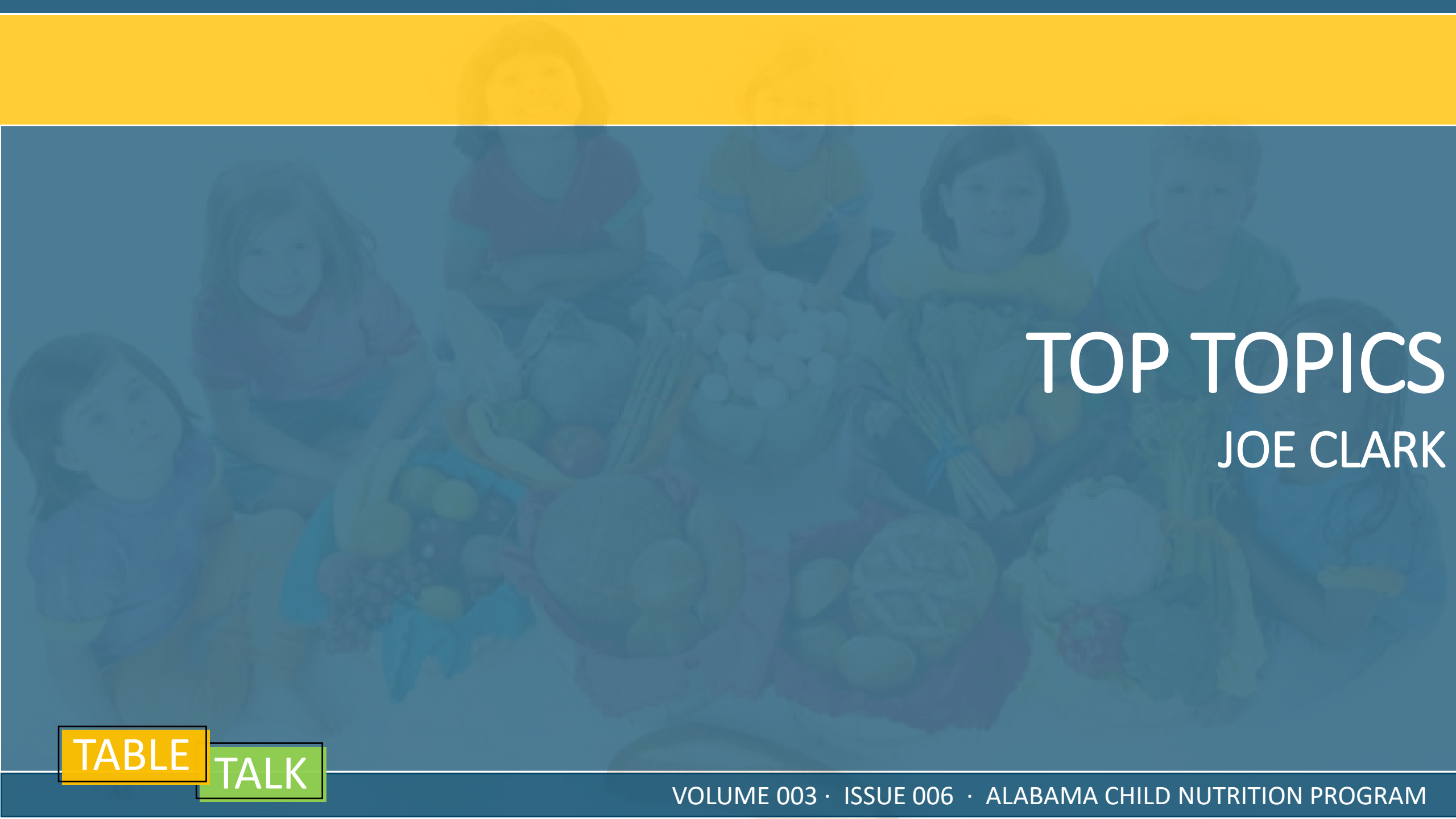
- USDA memo – emailed to all directors on 12/19/23
 - SP02-2024 – Revised: Crediting Tofu and Soy Yogurt Products in the SMP, CACFP, and SFSP
- USDA memo – emailed to all directors on 12/19/23
 - SP03-2024 – CNP Integrity Final Rule: Administrative Review and FSMC Review Cycles
- USDA memo – emailed to all directors on 12/19/23
 - SP04-2024 – CNP Integrity Final Rule: State Agency Discretion for Repeat Meal Pattern Violations for Fiscal Action
- ALSDE memo – emailed to all directors on 12/20/23
 - 2024 CNP Directors' Spring Conference

MONTHLY MEMOS

- ALSDE memo – emailed to all directors on 12/22/23
 - Webinar for Summer Meals Sponsoring Organizations and Program Operators
- ALSDE memo – emailed to all directors on 1/2/24
 - 2024 Farm to School Workshop - *Registration Re-Opened*
- ALSDE memo – emailed to all directors on 1/5/24
 - 7th Annual Alabama State Junior Chef Competition
- ALSDE memo – emailed to all directors on 1/8/24
 - Cullman, AL Farm to School Workshop – CANCELLED
- ALSDE memo – emailed to all directors on 1/8/24
 - 2023-24 School Food Authority SFA Survey on Supply Chain Disruption and Student Participation

MONTHLY MEMOS

- ALSDE memo – emailed to all directors on 1/9/24
 - Inclement Weather
- ALSDE memo – emailed to all directors on 1/12/24
 - Headland, AL Farm to School Workshop – RESCHEDULED
- ALSDE memo – emailed to all directors on 1/12/24
 - School Nutrition Specialist (SNS) Exam
- ALSDE memo – emailed to all directors on 1/16/24
 - 2024 Farm to School Workshop



TOP TOPICS

JOE CLARK

TABLE TALK

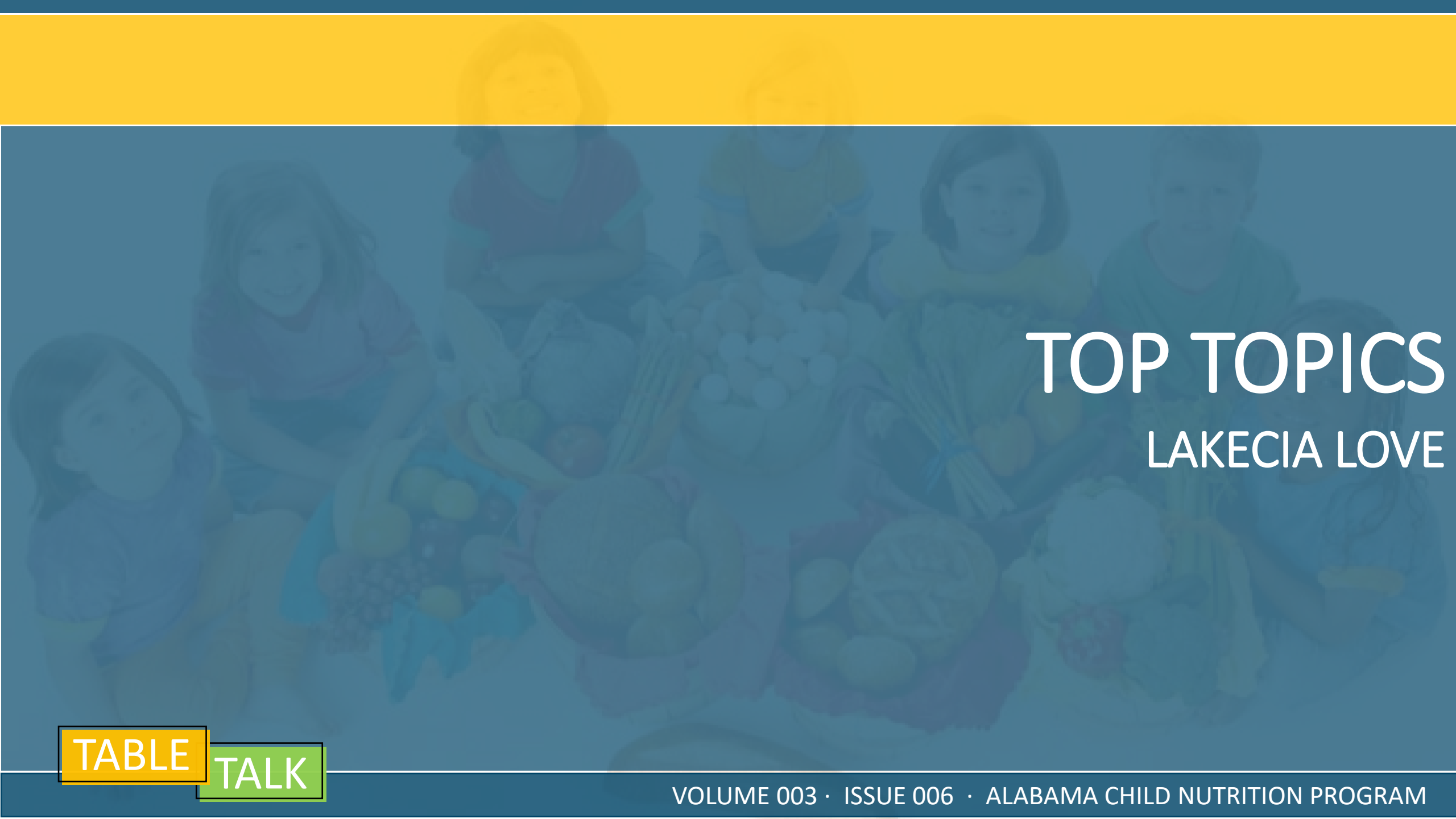
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Equipment Grant Winners

Congratulations to the FY23 Equipment Assistance Grant Award Winners. Seven schools have been awarded.

Albertville City
Winston County
University Charter
Tuscaloosa County
Hale County
Hale County
Hale County

Albertville Elementary
Double Springs Elementary
University Charter
Crestmont Elementary
Greensboro High
Greensboro Elementary
Hale County High



TOP TOPICS

LAKECIA LOVE

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Great News for Summer Meals Training!!

- SSO & SFSP Trainings will be held in person at the local Regional Inservice Centers near you .
- The Summer Meals Trainings will be a two-day event. Directors can attend SSO or SFSP Training or both.
- Registration is required.
- Summer Meals Training announcements will be sent out in the upcoming weeks.
- Any questions contact LaKecia Love (llove@alsde.edu) or Debbie Harris (dharris@alsde.edu).

TRAINING TIDBITS

DEVIN WILLIAMSON

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TRAINING



TRAINING TIDBITS



DATE	TRAINING	LOCATION	AREA
January 30, 2024	Farm to School Workshop	Coastal Community College	Monroeville, AL
February 1, 2024	Farm to School Workshop	Jefferson State Community College	Clanton, AL
February 6, 2024	Farm to School Workshop	Camp Meadowbrook	Cullman, AL
February 27, 2024	Farm to School Workshop	Davis Family Event Center	Headland, AL
February 15-16, 2024	ALSDE CNP Spring Conference	BJCC	Birmingham, AL
February 28, 2024	New Sponsor's Training	Gordon Persons Building	Montgomery, AL

TRAINING TIDBITS

ALSDE Spring Conference

February 15th & 16th

BJCC

**Registration Required on ALSDE site
provided in announcement**

followed by

ASNA Spring Conference

February 16th & 17th

BJCC

Registration Required

**Note: Registration Payment Information
will be sent by ASNA. All registration fees
are paid to ASNA.**



TRAINING TIDBITS





SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

STEVEN RYLANT

TABLE TALK

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Casey Partain, RD, LD, SNS

Casey has served as the Child Nutrition Program Supervisor for Marshall County School System since 2013.

Number of Sites: 6 cafeterias that feed 14 schools (~6000 students)

Number of Employees: 70

Years of School Nutrition Experience: Casey is currently in her 11th school year with Marshall County Schools.

Best Advice for New Directors: **Meet as many other directors** as possible when you go to meetings!

Favorite Part of the Job:

Casey loves seeing her coworkers **achieve their goals** and do something they thought they couldn't do. She also loves promoting the awesome job the CNP staff does each day on social media.

Least Favorite Part of the Job: Spending all of August processing free & reduced meal applications! Casey said one of the **many perks** of CEP is not having to do this!

Most Meaningful Thing that has Happened on your Job:

The **privilege of holding this position** is the most meaningful thing that has happened to Casey! Even on the hard days, she tries to remember that she is serving in her dream job and living the life she prayed for.

Funniest Thing that has Happened on the Job:

Casey said, "One time the district mechanics told me to pick up blinker fluid for my county car when my blinker stopped working." She has never heard the end of it.

Craziest Thing that has ever Happened on the Job:

It was crazy when Governor Ivey accepted Casey's invitation to eat lunch in one of their cafeterias. Casey said it was a great day and wonderful promotion for the district's CNP program.



TABLE

TALK

Marshall County Schools
Striving for Excellence

USDA Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation*), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

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To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#) from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

*This language was added pursuant to the May 5, 2022, USDA memorandum. However, the inclusion and applicability of this language is currently under challenge in the matter of *The State of Tennessee, et al. v. USDA, et al.*, Case No. 3:22-cv-00257, and may be subject to change.

ASK US

