



TABLE

TALK



Alabama State Department of Education
Child Nutrition Programs



BREAK for a PLATE
SCHOOLS

VOLUME 004

ISSUE 002

September 5, 2024

WEBEX RECORDING

[Click here to access the Webex recording.](#)

OVERVIEW



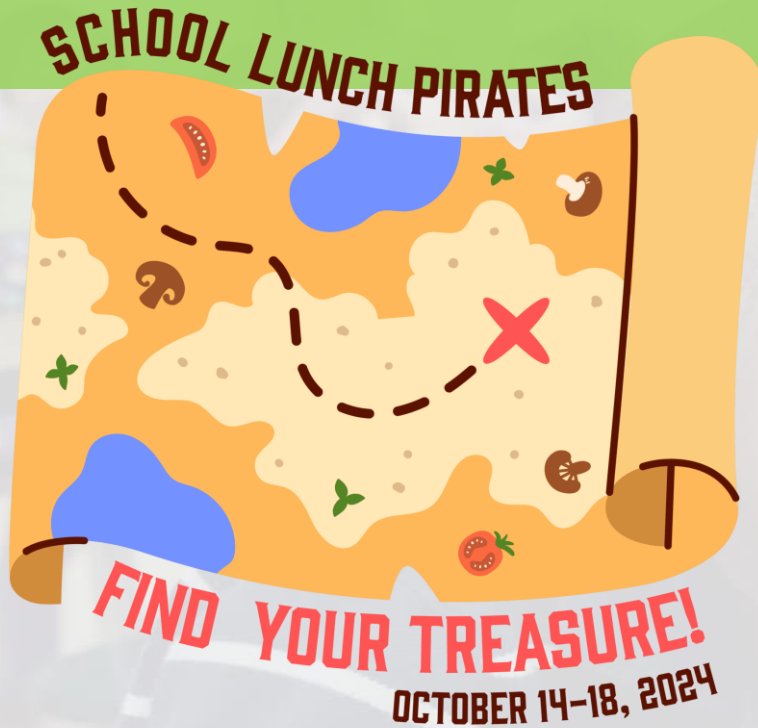
REVIEWS AND REMINDERS

CHIMERIA GIVHAN

TABLE TALK

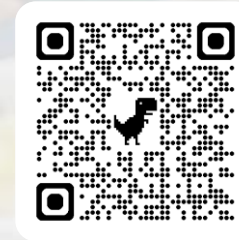
VOLUME 004 · ISSUE 002 · ALABAMA CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

REVIEWS AND REMINDERS



It's never too early to start planning for National School Lunch Week!

SNA-developed tools and resources.



National School Lunch Week

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) serves nearly 30 million children every school day. President John F. Kennedy created National School Lunch Week (NSLW) in 1962 to promote the importance of a healthy school lunch in a child's life and the impact it has inside and outside of the classroom.

#NSLW24 will be celebrated October 14-18, 2024.



Survey Due by
September 10 at 9:30 a.m.

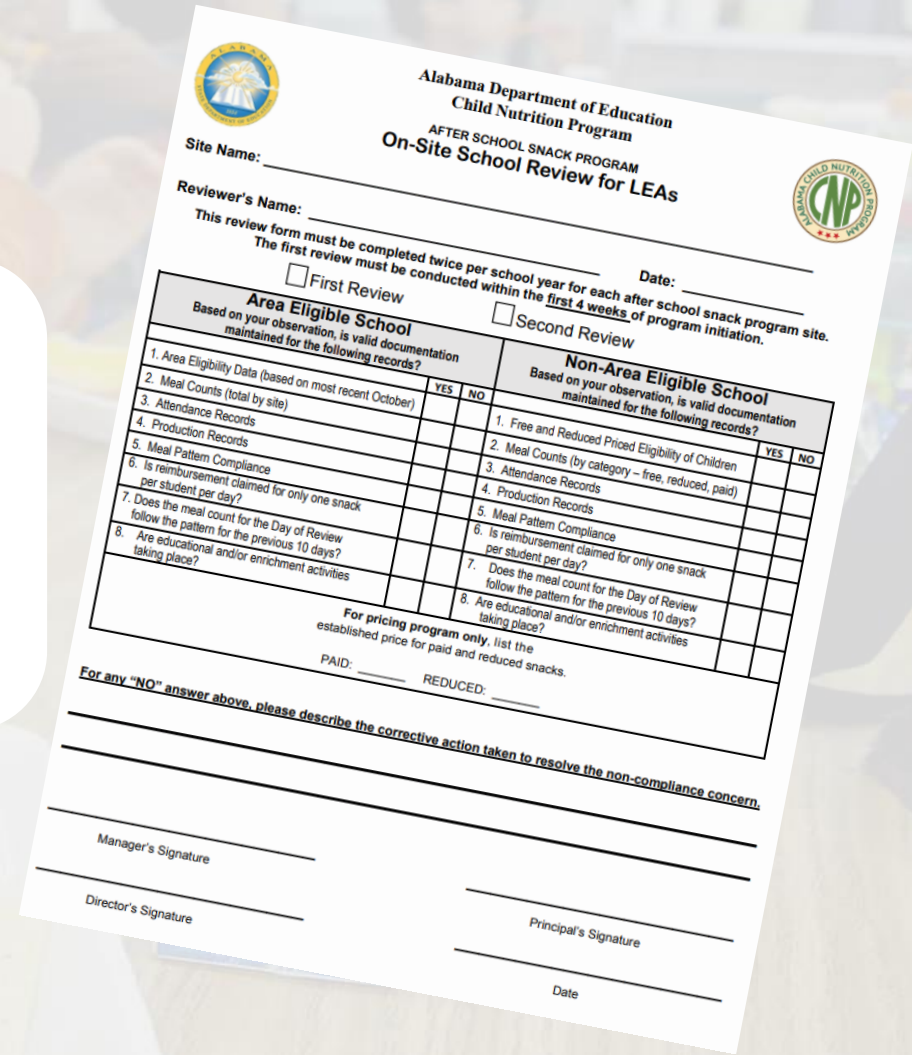
REVIEWS AND REMINDERS

AFTERSCHOOL SNACK PROGRAM ONSITE MONITORING

Onsite review for ASSP
must be completed
within four (4) weeks of
program start date.

An additional review
must be done prior to the
end of the school year.

[After School Snack Program Onsite Review Form
\(1\).pdf](#)



The form is titled "Alabama Department of Education Child Nutrition Program AFTER SCHOOL SNACK PROGRAM On-Site School Review for LEAs". It includes fields for Site Name, Reviewer's Name, and Date. A note states: "This review form must be completed twice per school year for each after school snack program site. The first review must be conducted within the first 4 weeks of program initiation." There are checkboxes for "First Review" and "Second Review". The form is divided into two main sections: "Area Eligible School" and "Non-Area Eligible School". Each section has a table with 8 rows of questions and two columns for "YES" and "NO" answers. The questions are: 1. Area Eligibility Data (based on most recent October), 2. Meal Counts (total by site), 3. Attendance Records, 4. Production Records, 5. Meal Pattern Compliance, 6. Is reimbursement claimed for only one snack per student per day?, 7. Does the meal count for the Day of Review follow the pattern for the previous 10 days?, and 8. Are educational and/or enrichment activities taking place? Below the tables, there is a section for "For pricing program only, list the established price for paid and reduced snacks." with fields for "PAID:" and "REDUCED:". At the bottom, there are lines for "Manager's Signature", "Director's Signature", "Principal's Signature", and "Date". A note at the bottom states: "For any 'NO' answer above, please describe the corrective action taken to resolve the non-compliance concern."

Area Eligible School		Non-Area Eligible School	
Based on your observation, is valid documentation maintained for the following records?		Based on your observation, is valid documentation maintained for the following records?	
1. Area Eligibility Data (based on most recent October)	YES NO	1. Free and Reduced Priced Eligibility of Children	YES NO
2. Meal Counts (total by site)		2. Meal Counts (by category – free, reduced, paid)	
3. Attendance Records		3. Production Records	
4. Production Records		4. Meal Pattern Compliance	
5. Meal Pattern Compliance		5. Is reimbursement claimed for only one snack per student per day?	
6. Is reimbursement claimed for only one snack per student per day?		6. Does the meal count for the Day of Review follow the pattern for the previous 10 days?	
7. Does the meal count for the Day of Review follow the pattern for the previous 10 days?		7. Are educational and/or enrichment activities taking place?	
8. Are educational and/or enrichment activities taking place?			

USDA Retraction

Final Rule, Partnerships with Faith-Based and Neighborhood Organizations in CNPs

Action Required

- **Remove any statements posted to websites regarding beneficiaries and prospective beneficiaries**
- **We will make notifications of any updates received**



Dear Directors,

On July 1, 2024, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) distributed initial guidance on implementation of the final rule Partnerships with Faith-Based and Neighborhood Organizations, [89 FR 15671](#). FNS included in that distribution guidance and a model written notice to beneficiaries, released by the USDA Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (OASCR).

This message is to inform you that USDA's Notice to Beneficiaries and Prospective Beneficiaries guidance/material is hereby retracted as to religious schools and institutions. As appropriate, we will send you USDA's forthcoming clarification of this guidance/material.

Should you have any questions, please contact the School Programs staff at (334) 694-4657 or cnpslp@alsde.edu.

[Redacted signature line]

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REVIEWS AND REMINDERS

Feeding Change: Nourishing Alabama's Future Summit

November 6th & 7th-Montgomery, AL



Feeding Change aims to bring together leaders, innovators, and advocates dedicated to improving Alabama's food system. The Summit will appeal to all organizations and individuals involved in food, nutrition, and agriculture in Alabama.

This event will be an excellent opportunity to network, share insights, and collaborate on initiatives that can significantly impact Alabama's food system.

Feeding Change website: <https://hsi.auburn.edu/au-echa/feeding-change.php>

Early Bird Registration: Save \$100 by registering before September 9th

Discounted Lodging Rate: <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1719248656451&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

Registration Link: aub.ie/feedingchangereg



MONTHLY MEMOS

CHAD LANGSTON

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MONTHLY MEMOS

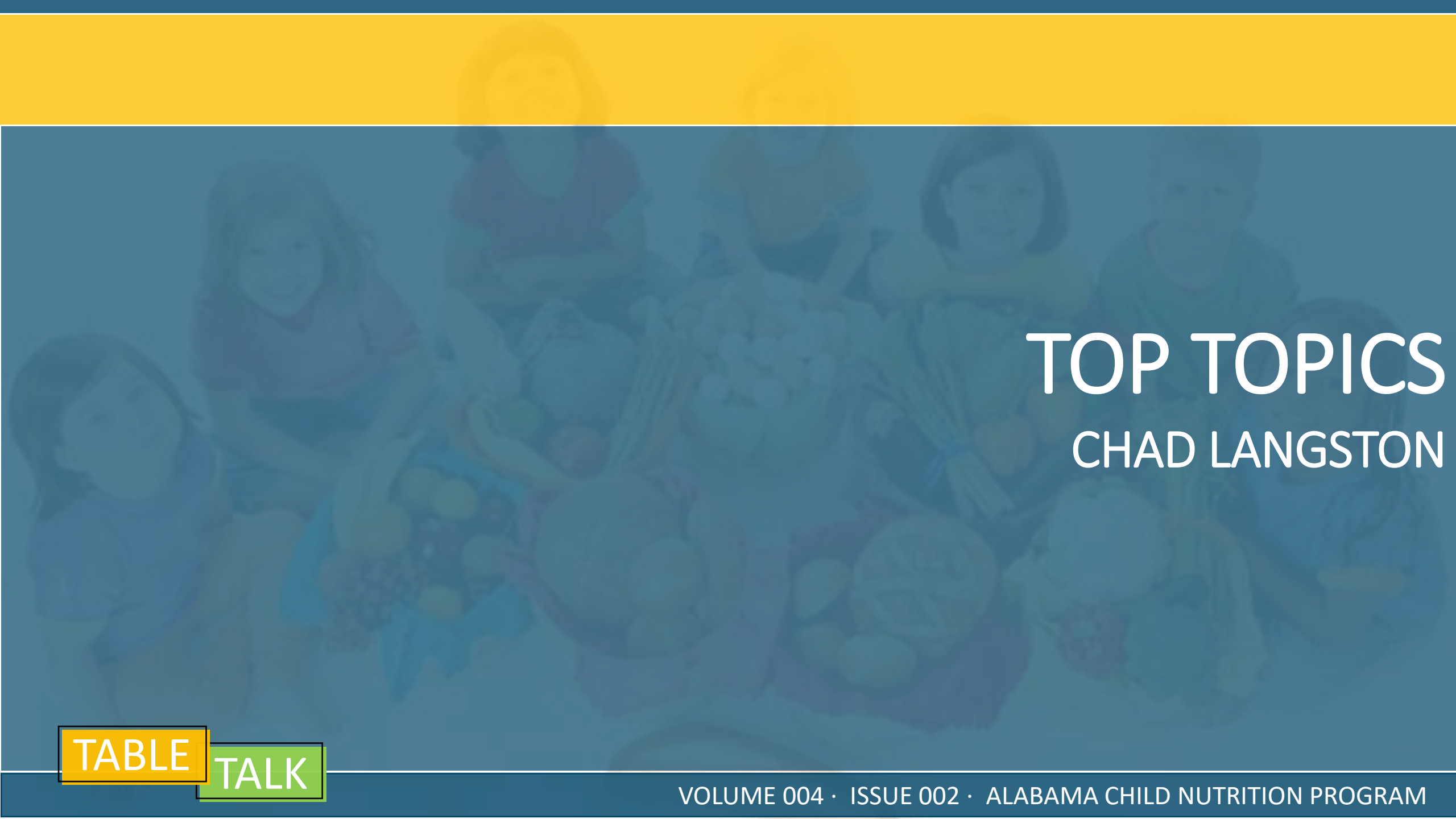
- ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 7/26/24)
 - Corrected Reimbursement Rates for School Year 2024-2025
- ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 7/30/24)
 - 2024-2025 Annual Civil Rights Training Webex Recording
- ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 7/31/24)
 - SY 2024-2025 Pass Thru Workbook
- ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 7/31/24)
 - Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)
- ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 8/5/24)
 - *REVISED* SY 2024-2025 Pass Thru Workbook
- ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 8/8/24)
 - Private Schools Identified Student Percentage (ISP) Data Collection for SY24-25
- ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 8/13/24)
 - Updated CNP Capital Expenditure Pre-approved List

MONTHLY MEMOS

- ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 8/14/24)
 - *PAST DUE* State Agency Food Safety Inspections Report for School Year (SY)2023-2024
- ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 8/14/24)
 - *CNP CLAIM DEADLINE*
- ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 8/14/24)
 - School Year 2024-2025 Verification Review
- ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 8/16/24)
 - New Director Development Interest Survey
- ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 8/19/24)
 - Child Nutrition Contact Directory for Farmers
- ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 8/22/24)
 - Identified Student Percentage Report - Private Schools
- ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 8/28/24)
 - USDA Back to School with Local Food Newsletter

MONTHLY MEMOS

- ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 8/28/24)
 - Inaugural Feeding Change: Nourishing Alabama's Future Summit
- ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 8/29/24)
 - *Action Required* - Additional Guidance: Final Rule, Partnerships with Faith-Based and Neighborhood Organizations in the CNPs
- ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 8/29/24)
 - National School Lunch Week October 14-18, 2024



TOP TOPICS

CHAD LANGSTON

TABLE TALK

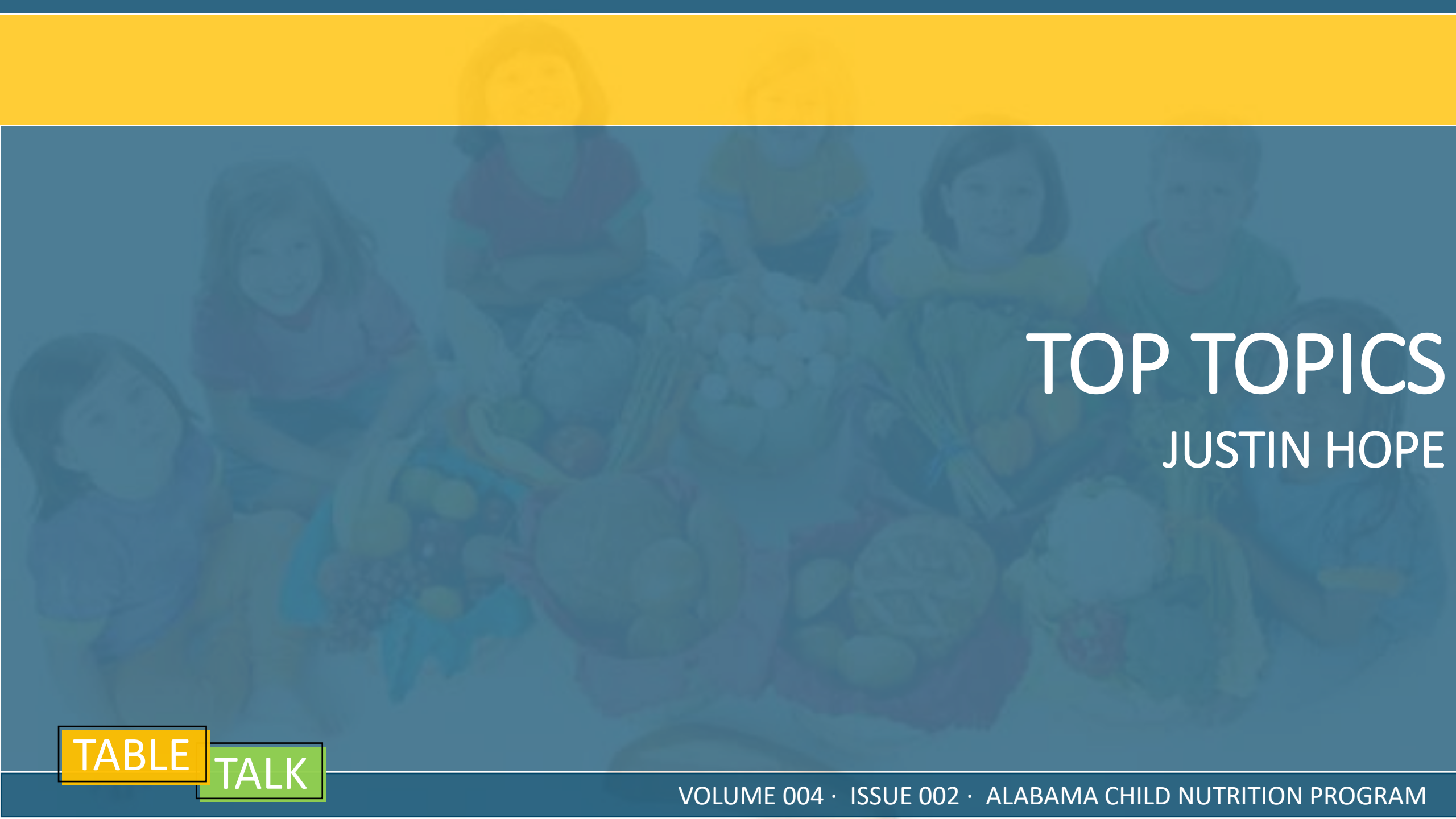
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- **USDA Management Evaluation (ME) Finding for ALSDE NSLP:**
 - **Added addendum - NSLP Annual Agreement Addendum to the Free and Reduced Price Policy Statement**
 - Will be sent out via DocuSign to all NSLP sponsors for electronic signature.
 - CEP sponsors will have an added step of listing the following information on the form prior to being e-signed by the CNP director and superintendent/administrator
 - Initial school year of implementing the special assistance provision
 - Expected school year cycle
 - School year the special assistance provision must be reconsidered
 - Available and approved data used in reconsideration



Each school participating in a special provision or CEP option must include the following information:

1. 2025 Initial school year of implementing the special assistance provision.
2. 4 years Expected school year cycle.
3. 2029 School year the special assistance provision must be reconsidered.
4. April 1, 2028 Available and approved data used in reconsideration.



TOP TOPICS

JUSTIN HOPE

TABLE TALK

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CNP Capital Equipment Pre-Approved List

- Hot Water Heaters
- Hot Water Heater Parts
- Dishwasher Parts

CNP CAPITAL EQUIPMENT PRE-APPROVED LIST



ALSDE has pre-approved the equipment established on the capital equipment list below. The SFA may purchase those equipment items, following competitive Federal, State, or local procurement procedures, as applicable, without submitting a request to ALSDE. For any capital equipment expenditure of \$5,000 or more not included on the pre-approved list, please contact CNP School Programs at ALSDE for guidance.

SFAs must consult with the local Chief School Financial Officer to determine a suitable budget for Child Nutrition. Any equipment purchases made prior to the equipment's projected end of useful life or the expiration of the warranty period, require documentation justifying the replacement(s) if the revenues generated by CNP operations are less than the expenditures, non-federal funds must be utilized to cover the cost of the replacement(s). ALSDE retains primary responsibility for determining whether a capital project expenditure is considered a repair or maintenance cost. Equipment that involves renovation or improvement of facilities such as: new kitchen exhaust systems/hoods and new water heaters and freezers require ALSDE approval through submission of the Fixed Asset Equipment Purchase Request Form.

APPROVED SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE CAPITAL EQUIPMENT			
Food Preparation Equipment	Washer/Sanitation/Safety Equipment	Food Serving Equipment	
- Commercial Worktables - Refrigerated Prep Tables - Fruit & Vegetable Sinks	- Commercial Dishwashers 3-Compartment Sinks - Water Heaters and Boosters - Parts for water heaters and water heaters	- Hot Holding Lines - Passes - Warmers - Counters - Drawer Warmers	
- Countertop Equipment - Slicer - Char Broilers - Pizza Ovens - Commercial Food Mixers - Commercial Food Processors - Commercial Kettles - Braising Pots	- Handwashers - Water Heaters and Boosters - Commercial Dishwashers - Commercial Food Processors - Commercial Food Mixers - Commercial Food Processors - Commercial Food Processors - Commercial Food Processors	- Kiosks, Vending Machines - Breakfast Serving Carts - Serving tables and chairs - Merchandisers - Ice Machines (for CNP use only)	
Food Storage Equipment/Supplies	Packaging Equipment/Supplies	General Purpose Equipment/Supplies	
- Parts for Walk-in Freezers and Refrigeration - Refrigeration Parts - Refrigeration Parts - Refrigeration Parts	- Storage racks for dry and refrigerated storage - Commercial Packaging Systems - Shrink Wrap - Dough Presses - Muffin and Cookie depositors - Conveyer system	- Office Furnishings - HVAC systems for kitchen	

BACB defines "equipment" as tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit cost which equals or exceeds the lesser capitalization level established for financial statement purposes, \$5,000, set by State or local level regulations. 2 CFR Part 200 (Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards), 2 CFR §200.439 (Equipment and other capital expenditures) require a School Food Authority (SFA) to obtain the prior written approval of its state agency before incurring the cost of a capital expenditure. On March 28, 2014, the USDA issued Policy Memorandum SP 31-2014: State Agency Prior Approval Process for School Food Authority Equipment Purchases. This policy item allows state agencies to develop an approved list and criteria for capital expenditure purchases that are routinely purchased by the SFA. On June 2, 2016, USDA issued Policy Memorandum SP 39-2016 to include new regulation citations and continue this flexibility for State agency.



The Alabama State Department of Education

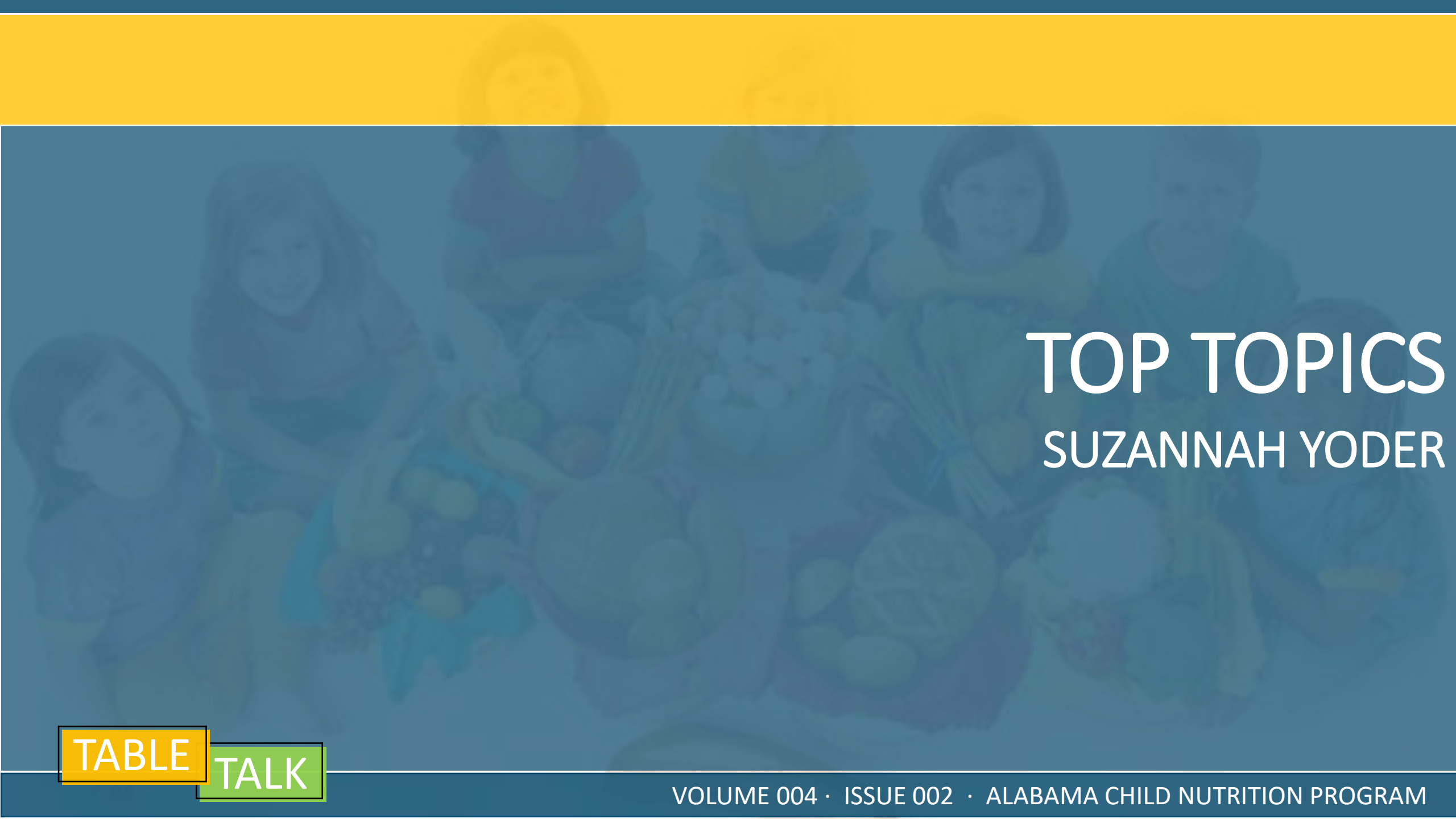
Preventative Maintenance Reminder

Cooking Hoods

Fire Suppression

Water Filters





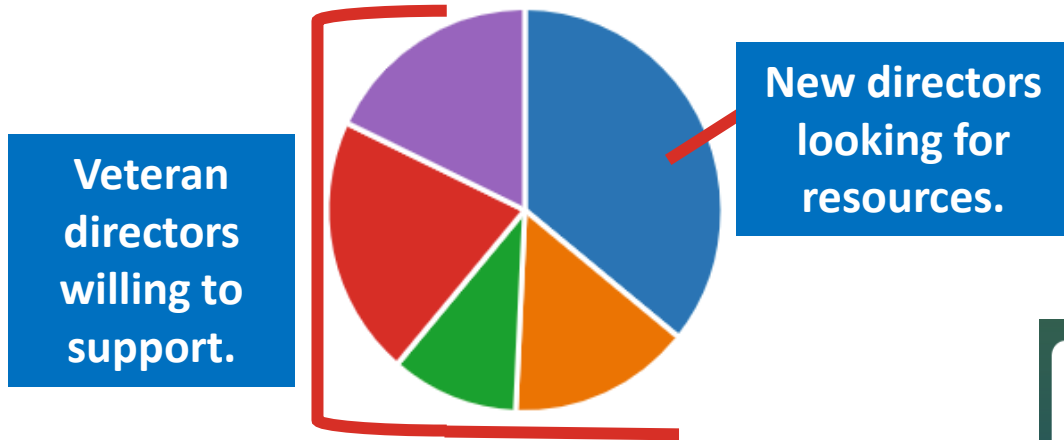
TOP TOPICS

SUZANNAH YODER

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New Director Development Interest Survey



Development of Best Practice Resource Panels

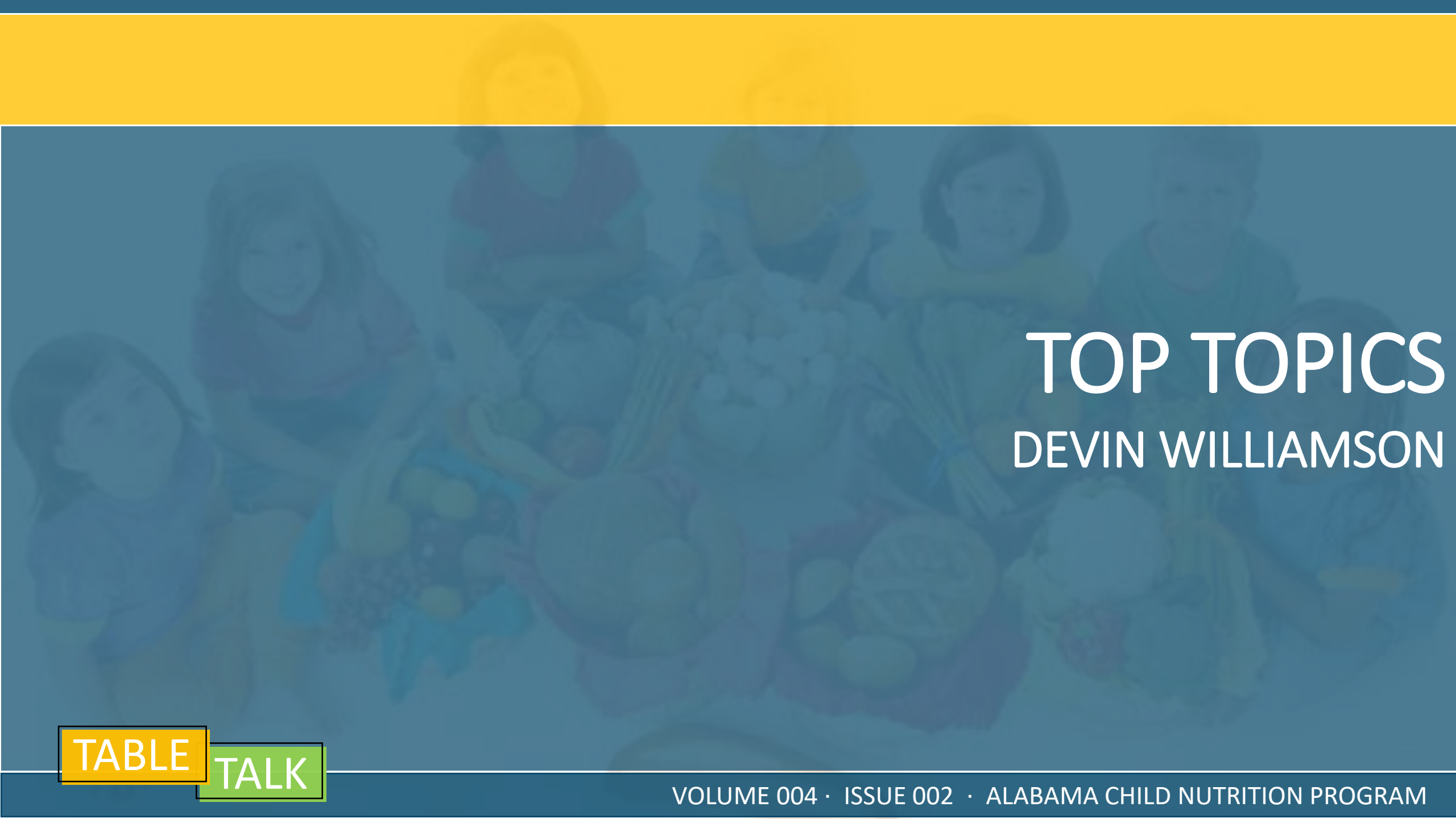
- Kitchen Operations
- Procurement
- Work Environment
- Smart Snacks/Competitive Foods
- Nutritional Details
- Food Safety Plans
- Wellness Policies



What's Next?

- Further clarify program objectives to finalize interest.
- Thoughtful pairings: district location, student enrollment, CEP or pricing, nutritional software
- Structured opportunities to share resources and wisdom.

Working Better *Together*



TOP TOPICS

DEVIN WILLIAMSON

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USDA's Final Rule: Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans

7 CFR 210.10 (d)

Fluid Milk Substitutes: Nutrient Requirements

Finalizes Vitamin A and Vitamin D required in fluid milk substitutes does not change; only the unit of measurement (IU to mcg) has changed to conform to FDA labeling requirements.

Reminders about Fluid Milk Substitutes:

- Low-fat, fat-free lactose-free and reduced-lactose milk are considered a type of fluid milk and do not require a doctor's note or parent/guardian note to serve.
- Prior to providing a fluid milk substitute (ex. almond, oat, soy milk) for a **non-disability** reason, the milk substitute would need to meet the chart and the SFA must obtain a written request from the student's parent or guardian, State licensed healthcare professional, or an RD that identifies the reason for the substitute.

TABLE 2 TO PARAGRAPH (d)(2)(ii)—NUTRIENT REQUIREMENTS FOR FLUID MILK SUBSTITUTES

Nutrient	Per cup (8 fl. oz.)
Calcium	276 mg.
Protein	8 g.
Vitamin A	150 mcg. retinol activity equivalents (RAE).
Vitamin D	2.5 mcg.
Magnesium	24 mg.
Phosphorus	222 mg.
Potassium	349 mg.
Riboflavin	0.44 mg.
Vitamin B-12	1.1 mcg.

USDA's Final Rule: Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans

Clarification on Potable Water Requirements

Clarifies that schools must make "plain" potable water available during the meal service beginning July 1, 2024.

Synthetic Trans Fat

Eliminates the requirement for the SBP, NSLP, and competitive foods to have zero synthetic trans fat. The FDA removed synthetic trans fat from the US food supply as of 2020 and thus the requirement to monitor synthetic trans fat in school meal programs is unnecessary

Terminology Change

Changes the name of the "Legumes (beans and peas)" vegetable subgroup to "beans, peas, and lentils" as of July 1, 2024. This was changed to align terminology with the *Dietary Guidelines, 2020-2025*.

Opportunities through the Chef Ann Foundation

Healthy School Food Pathway: Fellowship Program

A 13-month apprenticeship program for current school food professionals in mid- to upper-level management positions who are passionate about advancing scratch cooking in their districts, as well as their careers in school food leadership. Applications close September 12th, 2024.

Get Schools Cooking

An intensive 3-year assessment and strategic planning program that provides schools with the operational knowledge to transition from a heat-and-serve operation to scratch cooking. Applications close September 30th, 2024.

Salad Bars to Schools

A grant program that provides schools and districts with salad bar equipment and support, including Cambro salad bars, camchillers, and technical assistance. Applications are accepted through 2030.

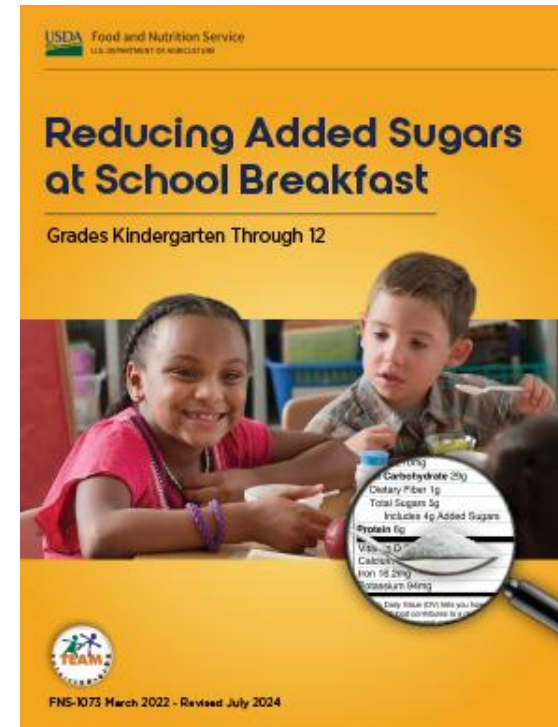
[Grant Programs \(site.com\)](https://www.getschoolscooking.org/grant-programs)



FELLOWSHIP

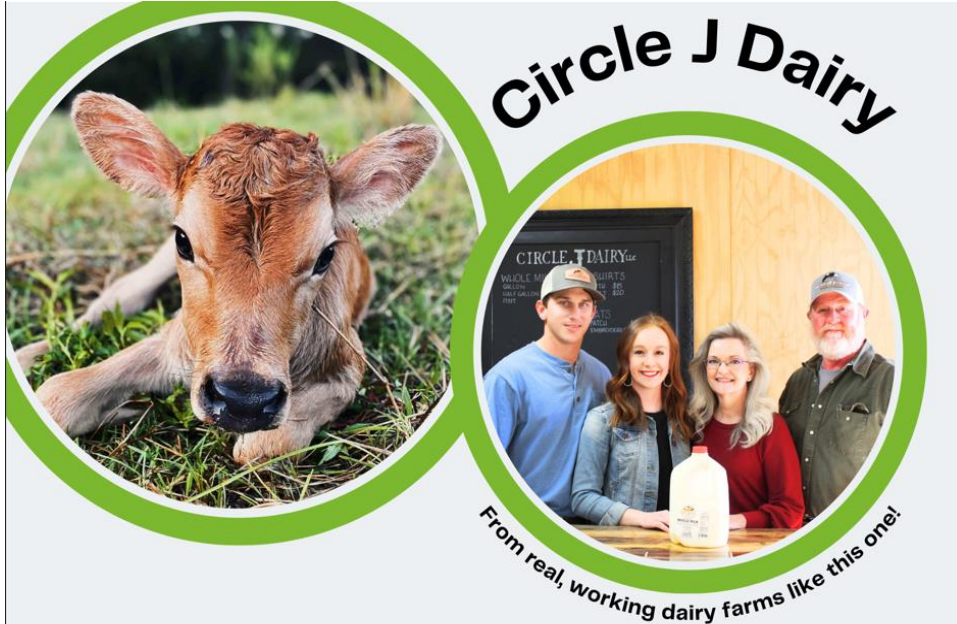
Team Nutrition Resources

- Reducing Added Sugars At School Breakfast Training Guide
 - fns.usda.gov/tn/sbp/reducing-added-sugars
 - Useful for preparing for the upcoming added sugar weekly limit beginning in SY 2027
 - Added sugars include sugars that are added to foods and drinks such as table sugar, syrup, and honey
 - Chronic diseases such as obesity and type 2 diabetes are linked to diets high in added sugars
- Breakfast Bundles for Elementary and Secondary Schools:
 - OVS Posters, Stickers, Breakfast Photo Props, and Serving Up My Plate Curriculum (depends on the age group)
 - Order here: [USDA Team Nutrition \(gpo.gov\)](https://www.gpo.gov)
- Healthy Futures Start with School Breakfast
 - [Healthy Futures Start with School Breakfast | Publications.USA.gov \(gpo.gov\)](https://publications.usda.gov)



Adopt a Cow Program

- Registration through September 15th
- A free, year-long experience for the classroom. This experience can be shared with teachers, principals, and other partners.
- Each classroom is paired with a cow from a dairy farm.
- Teachers and students receive photos, video updates, and activity sheets that allow them to watch their calf grow.
- Enroll here: [Register here to Adopt a Cow for 2024.](#)
- Contact Jana Miller at jmiller@thedairyalliance.com with questions.



Circle J Dairy

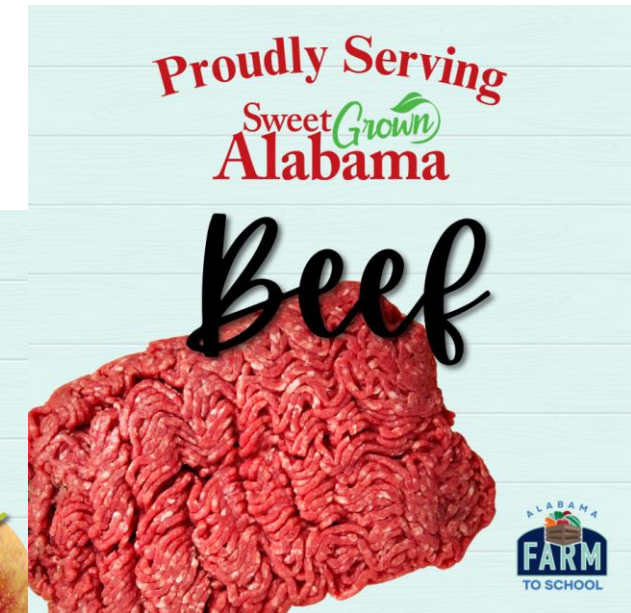
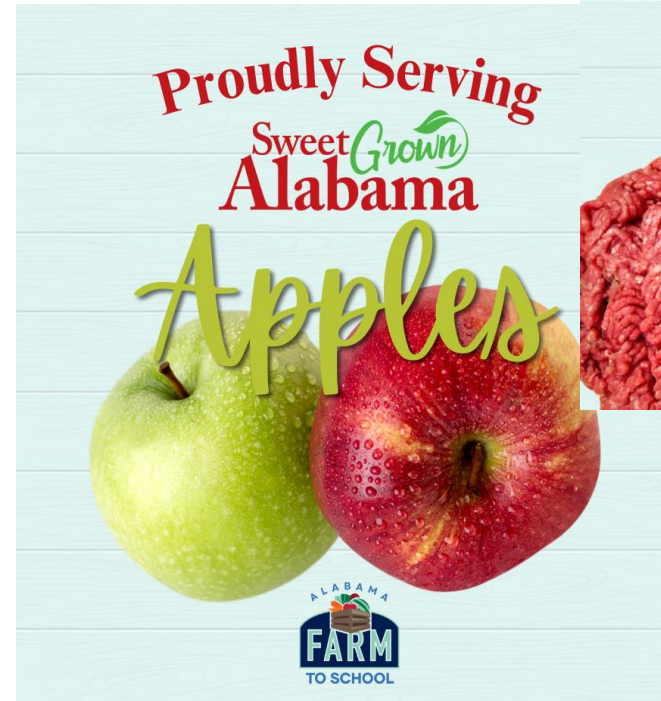
From real, working dairy farms like this one!

ALABAMA TEACHERS:
**Adopt a cow
for your classroom!**

» discoverdairy.com/adopt 

Upcoming Farm to School Activities

- Alabama Farm to School Hashtag: #ALF2S
- **October is Farm to School Month!**
- October's Alabama Harvest of the Month items: Apples or Beef
- November's Alabama Harvest of the Month items: Persimmons or Satsumas
- Apple Crunch Day is October 10th, 2024
- **Save the Date: Fall Conference Farm to School Summit on November 20th from 9 AM- 12 Noon**
- Harvest of the Month Calendars: [CNP Harvest of the Month – Alabama Agriculture & Industries – Farm to School](#)



[Local Product Flyers – Alabama Agriculture & Industries – Farm to School](#)

St. Clair County Schools TN Open House



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Guntersville City Schools TN Open House



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Legacy Prep TN Open House

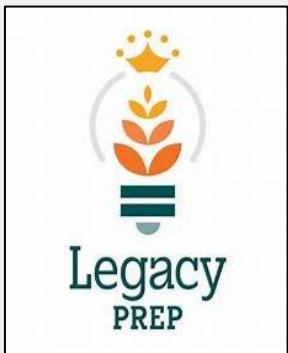


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Little Flower Catholic TN Open House



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Bibb County TN Open House



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TRAINING TIDBITS

ROBBIE SCOTT

TRAINING TIDBITS

Training



DATE	TRAINING	LOCATION	AREA
October 23 - 24	New Directors' Training	Montgomery Public Schools Leadership Building, Building B	Montgomery, AL
November 20 – 22, 2024	Fall Directors' Conference	The Grand Hotel	Fairhope, AL

TRAINING TIDBITS

DATE	TRAINING	LOCATION	AREA
October 23 - 24, 2024	New Directors' Training	Montgomery Public School Leadership Center, Building B	Montgomery, AL

New Directors' Training PART I

- October 23 - 24, 2025
- By invitation only – Coming soon!
- 2-day training at Montgomery Public Schools Leadership Center

PART II

- January 8 – 10, 2025
- By invitation only
- 3-day training at Gordon Persons Building - Montgomery



CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

Tuesday, November 19

FARM TO SCHOOL TOUR Sponsored by the Department of Agriculture and Industries

-----Departure 1:00PM from The Grand-----

Wednesday, November 20

8:45	Registration for Farmers' Summit	Grand Ballroom North
9:00 - 10:30	Hear from the Farmers	Grand Ballroom North
10:30 - 12:00	Farmer Meet and Greet	Grand Ballroom South
12:00 - 1:00 -	ALSDE CNP Director Conference Registration	Grand Ballroom North Foyer
1:00 - 4:30	Training Session	Grand Ballroom North

Thursday, November 21

8:00 - 9:00	Registration	Grand Ballroom North Foyer
9:00 - 11:45	Training Session	Grand Ballroom North
1:00 - 3:45	Breakout Sessions	Beachside Room • Azalea D-F
		Grand Ballroom North

Friday, November 22

8:00 - 9:00	Registration	Grand Ballroom North Foyer
9:00 - 12:00	Training Session	Grand Ballroom North

TRAINING TIDBITS

FARM TOUR

Tuesday, Nov. 19, 1:00 p.m.

Cassebaum Produce Farm

A fourth-generation farm with diverse products that range from a variety of produce to cattle.

Mason Hills Farm

Mason Hills Farm produces a variety of meat products including beef, pork and chicken.

Then join us for a delicious **STEAK AND SHRIMP DINNER** at the Waters Edge, a fully functioning farm and event venue.

Registration is **\$55** and includes farm tours, dinner and limited edition tote.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER:
OCTOBER 18TH



Farm Tour Schedule:

12:30 - 12:55	BUS BOARDING
1:00 PM	BUS DEPARTS HOTEL
1:40 PM	ARRIVE AT CASSEBAUM FARM
2:40 PM	BUS DEPARTS FARM
4:10 PM	ARRIVE AT MASON HILLS FARM
5:40 PM	BUS DEPARTS FARM
6:40 PM	ARRIVE AT WATERS EDGE FOR DINNER
8:40 PM	BUS DEPARTS
9:00 PM	BUS ARRIVES AT HOTEL

Please Prepare

- WEAR CLOSED TOE SHOES
- BRING A JACKET IF YOU GET COLD
- CONSIDER SUNSCREEN AND/OR A HAT

Don't Forget:

- BOTH FARMS WE WILL BE GOING TO ARE WORKING FARMS. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, I'M SURE THEY'D BE HAPPY TO ANSWER THEM!



NEW SEAMLESS REGISTRATION PROCESS THIS YEAR!

- Watch for Conference Announcement via email
- Registration for all events will be managed through ASNA
 - Farm to School Tour/Dinner
 - Directors' Conference
- Payment for all events will be made through ASNA
 - Farm to School Tour/Dinner
 - Directors' Conference
- Use link in email to secure and pay for hotel room at The Grand
- **NOTE:** You do not need to go to ALSDE application to register this year. You do not need to mail payment to Julie Harmon as in past years.



SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

LORI FERGUSON

TABLE

TALK

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

Number of sites: 3

Number of employees: 17

Years in child nutrition: 10

Emma Anne Hallman- Haleyville City

What is your favorite part of your job? Planning fun and engaging professional development, especially back to school season. This time of year, it is buzzing with excitement and energy as team members are gearing up for a new year. It's a critical period for setting the tone, refreshing skills, and introducing new menu items.

Most meaningful event that has ever happened in your job: Our Breakfast with Buddies event when CNP staff, PTO, and Elementary library partner together to celebrate National School Breakfast Week by having a book character breakfast where students can invite their parents, grandparents, or special family member to dine with them. Students loved the photo ops with Junie B. Jones, the Very Hungry Caterpillar, Pete the Cat and others.

Best advice for new directors: Don't underestimate the power of social media to tell your program's story! Use this powerful tool to promote your CNP program, build trust and community engagement and highlight your staff's successes. The positives it brings outweigh any naysayers.



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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.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

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: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, 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; or**

2.fax:

(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

3.email:

Program.Intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Thank you for attending!
Be sure to document your attendance
by completing the survey.
Scan the QR code

<https://forms.office.com/r/AZmecYWnLu?origin=lprLink>





Ask Us