



TABLE

TALK



Alabama State Department of Education
Child Nutrition Programs

VOLUME 004

ISSUE 005

January 31, 2025

Table Talk Recording

[Click here to access the Table Talk Volume 004 Issue 005 recording.](#)

OVERVIEW



REVIEWS AND REMINDERS

ROBBIE SCOTT

TABLE TALK

VOLUME 004 · ISSUE 005 · ALABAMA CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

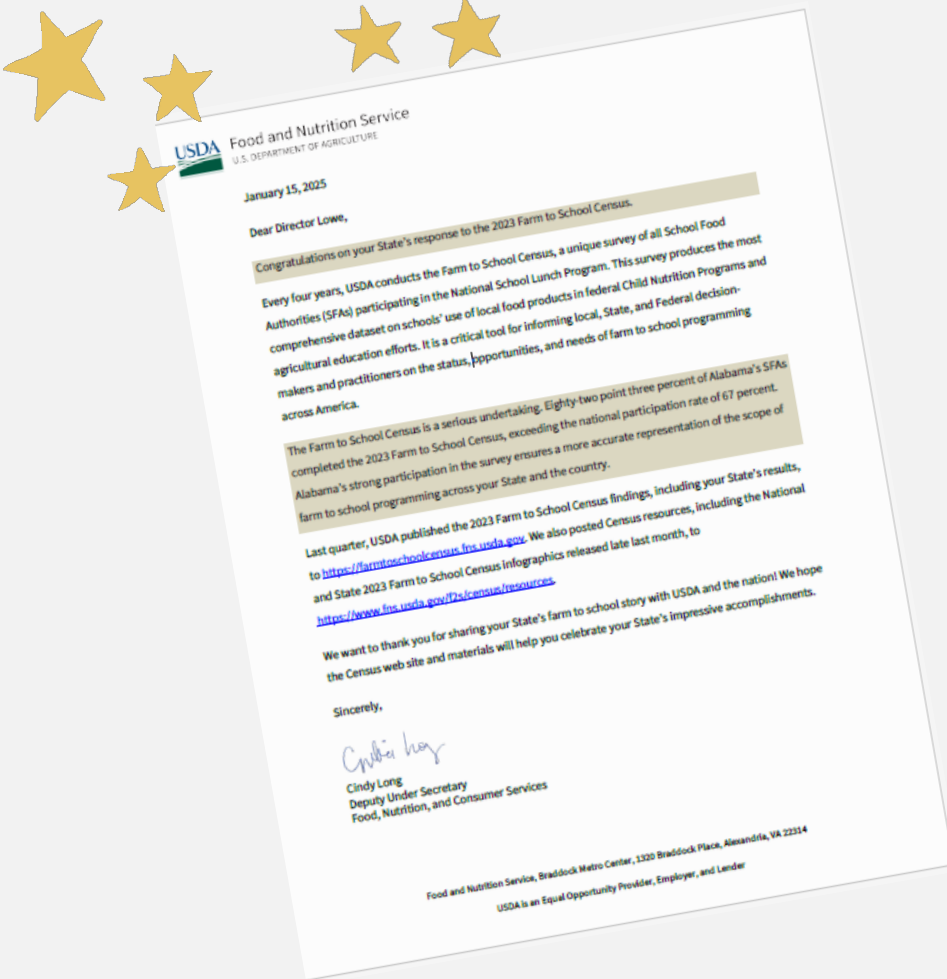
REVIEWS AND REMINDERS

Farm to School Census Merit Letter

Many thanks to our SFAs for their response to the 2023 Farm to School Census.

Alabama's response rate was so high (82%) that we earned a letter of Merit from the Deputy Under Secretary of USDA FNCS!

We appreciate our SFAs for making Alabama shine!





REVIEWS AND REMINDERS

Produce Safety University Participants Selected

Congratulations

Rachel Fowler	Homewood City
Kristy O'Leary	Tuscaloosa County
Krystal Patterson	Lee County
Suzannah Yoder	ALSDE



REVIEWS AND REMINDERS



Reminders!

Schedule A Revisions

Was your calendar affected by weather?

Remember to update the calendar in your online Agreement.



REVIEWS AND REMINDERS



Reminders!

**On Site Monitoring Should To Be Completed by
February 1, 2025**

- On site monitoring of SPB and NSLP should be completed by February 1st of each year.
- Remember ASSP requires a review within first 4 weeks of implementation and once again prior to the end of the program.



MONTHLY MEMOS

CHAD LANGSTON

TABLE TALK

VOLUME 004 · ISSUE 005 · ALABAMA CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

MONTHLY MEMOS

ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 10/29/24)

- Important Reminder* Private Schools Identified Student Percentage (ISP) Data Collection for SY24-25

ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 10/30/24)

- USDA Launches \$15 Million Program to Promote Organic Dairy Products in Schools and Youth Programs

USDA Memo (emailed to all directors on 11/5/24)

- SP 01-2025, SP 02-2025, and SP 03-2025

ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 11/5/24)

- Exciting Update: The Latest in the Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative

USDA Memo (emailed to all directors on 11/6/24)

- Anomaly: Announcing Public Webinar – Kosher & Halal Foods in Child Nutrition Programs

ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 11/6/24)

- *IMPORTANT REMINDER* School Year 2024-2025 Verification Review

MONTHLY MEMOS

USDA Memo (emailed to all directors on 11/7/24)

- SP 04-2025: Fees for Electronic Payment Services in the School Meal Programs

USDA Memo (emailed to all directors on 11/8/24)

- Make USDA Foods Work for Your School – Here's How

ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 11/13/24)

- 2025 Produce Safety University – Survey

USDA Memo (emailed to all directors on 11/13/24)

- SP 05-2025: Guidance for Accepting Processed Product Documentation for Meal Pattern Requirements

ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 11/18/24)

- 2024 Fall Directors' Conference Presentations

ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 11/19/24)

- 2024 Fall CNP Directors' Conference Agenda

ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 11/19/24)

- *Additional* 2024 Fall Directors' Conference Presentations

MONTHLY MEMOS

USDA Memo (emailed to all directors on 12/6/24)

- Updated Policy Memo: Child Nutrition Labels and Product Formulation Statements

ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 12/9/24)

- Preferred Dates for Fall 2025 CNP Directors' Conference Survey

ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 12/12/24)

- *Revised* 2025 Winter New Child Nutrition Program (CNP) Directors' Training

ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 12/13/24)

- Unexpected School Closures and Preparedness Guide

USDA Memo (emailed to all directors on 12/13/24)

- SP 06-2025: National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grants: Installation Expenditures

USDA Memo (emailed to all directors on 12/17/24)

- 10 Translated Prototype Household Applications For Free & Reduced Price School Meals & Instructions Now Available!

MONTHLY MEMOS

ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 12/19/24)

- REMINDER: **DUE DATE APPROACHING** 8th Annual Alabama State Junior Chef Competition

USDA Memo (emailed to all directors on 12/24/24)

- USDA Requests Public Comments on Pilot Projects for Tribes to Administer Child Nutrition Programs

USDA Memo (emailed to all directors on 12/24/24)

- USDA Requests Public Comments on Grain-Based Desserts and High-Protein Yogurt Crediting in Child Nutrition Programs

USDA Memo (emailed to all directors on 1/3/25)

- Equipment and Real Property Reporting Requirements

USDA Memo (emailed to all directors on 1/6/25)

- SP 07-2025: Requirement to Accept Medical Statements from Registered Dietitians for Schools and Child and Adult Care Institutions and Facilities

ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 1/7/25)

- 2025 Winter New Directors' Training Part 2 - Postponed

MONTHLY MEMOS

ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 1/7/24)

- Winter Weather Impacts - Waivers and Survey - Submit if Affected

ALSDE Memo (emailed to private school directors only on 1/7/24)

- ***DEADLINE APPROACHING 1/17/2025*** Private Schools Identified Student Percentage Data Collection for SY24-25

ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 1/8/24)

- National School Breakfast Week Survey

ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 1/8/24)

- Coffee Guidance for Coffee in School Meals

ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 1/21/24)

- Winter Weather Impacts - Waivers and Survey - Submit if Affected

ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 1/23/24)

- Action Required: Real Property Reporting Survey Due January 29, 2025

MONTHLY MEMOS

ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 1/29/24)

- Annual CNP Financial Report Update

ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 1/29/24)

- Alabama's Farm to School Culinary Challenge

ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 1/29/24)

- FY 2024 NSLP Equipment Grant Award Winners



TOP TOPICS

SUZANNAH YODER

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VOLUME 004 · ISSUE 005 · ALABAMA CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

Fall Conference Area Meeting Feedback: Common Talking Points

Training and Support our Directors would like from ALSDE

- Administrative Review Preparation
- Financial Procedures
- General Program Refresher
- Summer Programs

Shared Concerns

- Staffing, Turnover, General HR
- Who to contact at ALSDE, timeline for responses
- Consistency in Administrative Review Process
- DC Levels are Dropping



Fall Conference Area Meeting Feedback: Common Talking Points

Suggestions from Directors for ALSDE

- Put together sharable program specific information
- Clarity in DocuSign process
- Timing of ALSDE DocuSign and Constant Contact emails
- Continue Area Meetings at conferences or even outside of conference time
- Providing avenues for directors to connect on program issues or professional pursuits

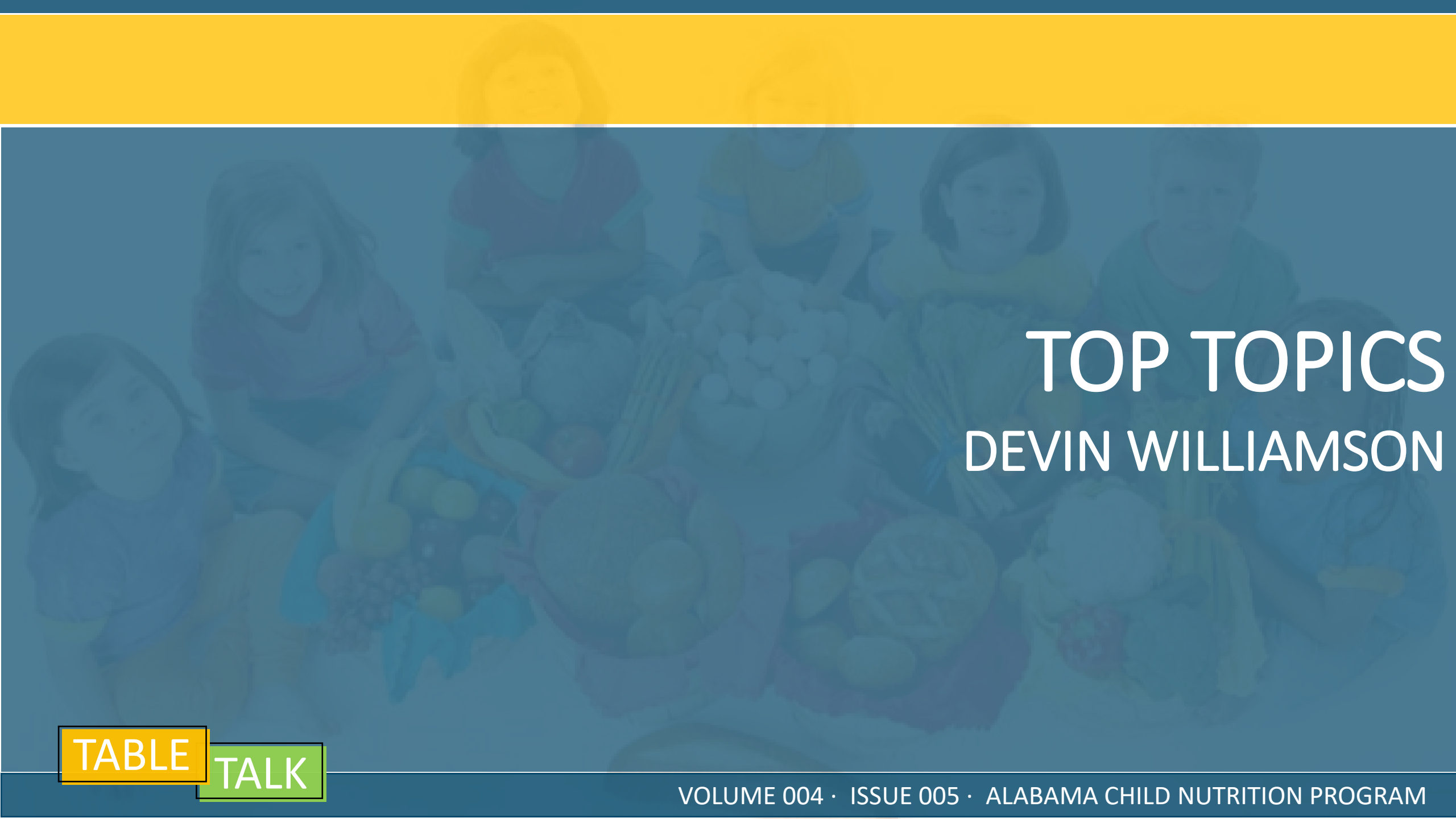
Human Resources Training
Information Request

<https://forms.office.com/r/xt3qL5pe0U>



SNS
Study Group

<https://forms.office.com/r/EgPw0rp3TD>

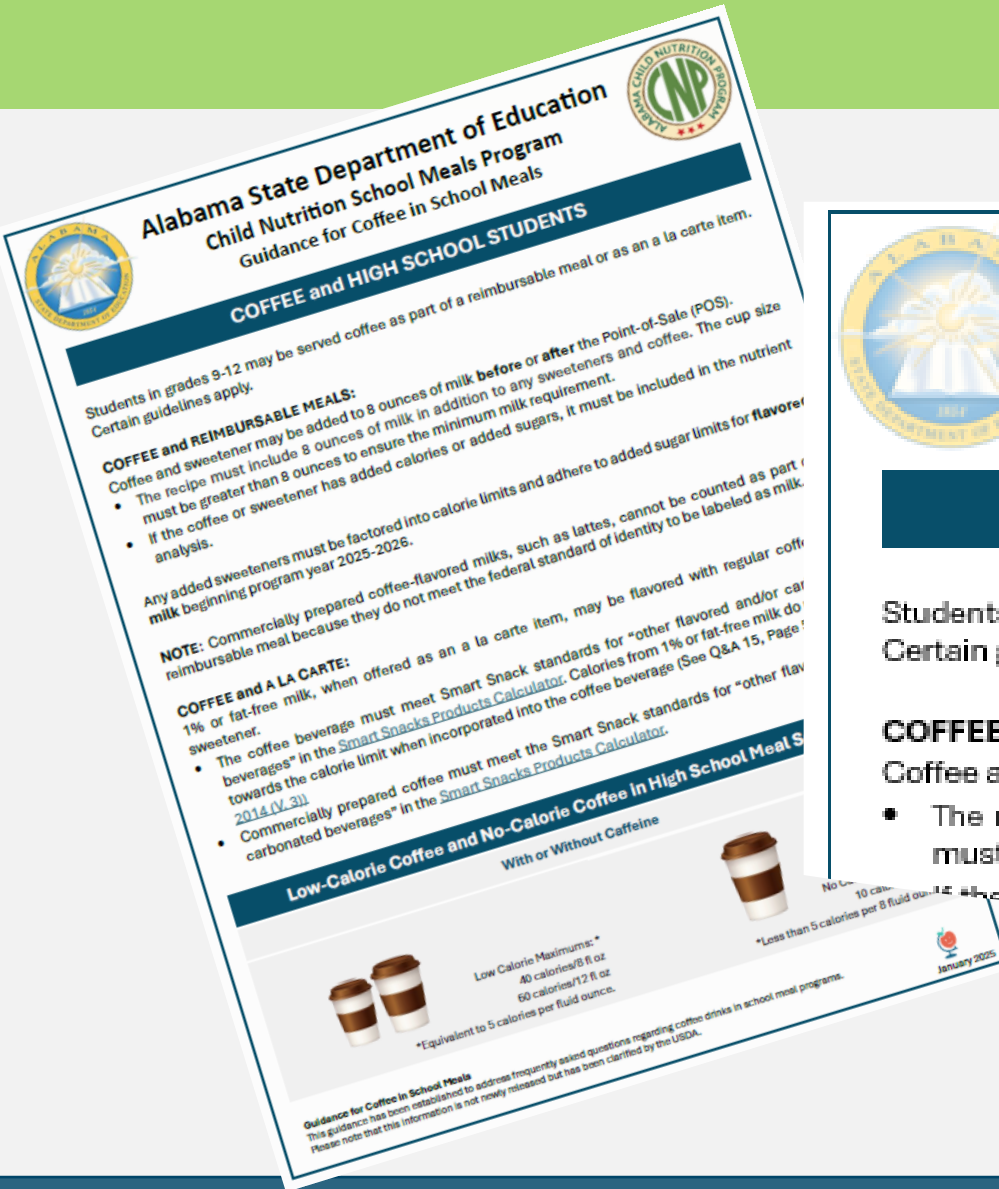


TOP TOPICS

DEVIN WILLIAMSON

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VOLUME 004 · ISSUE 005 · ALABAMA CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM





Alabama State Department of Education Child Nutrition School Meals Program Guidance for Coffee in School Meals

COFFEE and HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Students in grades 9-12 may be served coffee as part of a reimbursable meal or as an a la carte item. Certain guidelines apply.

COFFEE and REIMBURSABLE MEALS:

Coffee and sweetener may be added to 8 ounces of milk **before** or **after** the Point-of-Sale (POS).

- The recipe must include 8 ounces of milk in addition to any sweeteners and coffee. The cup size must be greater than 8 ounces to ensure the minimum milk requirement.
- If the coffee or sweetener has added calories or added sugars, it must be included in the nutrient analysis.



Coffee Guidance

Coffee Guidance for High School Students, Continued

COFFEE and REIMBURSABLE MEALS:

Coffee and sweetener may be added to 8 ounces of milk before or after the Point-of-Sale (POS).

- The recipe must include 8 ounces of milk in addition to any sweeteners and coffee. The cup size must be greater than 8 ounces to ensure the minimum milk requirement.
- If the coffee or sweetener has added calories or added sugars, it must be included in the nutrient analysis.

Any added sweeteners must be factored into calorie limits and adhere to added sugar limits for flavored milk beginning program year 2025-2026.

NOTE: Commercially prepared coffee-flavored milks, such as lattes, cannot be counted as part of a reimbursable meal because they do not meet the federal standard of identity to be labeled as milk.



Coffee Guidance for High School Students, Continued

COFFEE and A LA CARTE:

1% or fat-free milk, when offered as an a la carte item, may be flavored with regular coffee and sweetener.

- The coffee beverage must meet Smart Snack standards for “other flavored and/or carbonated beverages” in the Smart Snacks Products Calculator. Calories from 1% or fat-free milk do not count towards the calorie limit when incorporated into the coffee beverage (See Q&A 15, Page 5 of SP 23-2014 (V. 3))
- Commercially prepared coffee must meet the Smart Snack standards for “other flavored and/or carbonated beverages” in the Smart Snacks Products Calculator.

 SMART SNACKS
PRODUCT CALCULATOR



Is your beverage:

- ☐ a) Plain water or plain carbonated water
- ☐ b) Plain low fat milk* 
- ☐ c) Flavored low fat milk* 
- ☐ d) Plain non-fat milk* 
- ☐ e) Flavored non-fat milk* 
- ☐ f) 100% fruit or vegetable juice
- ☐ g) 100% fruit or vegetable juice diluted with water with no added sweeteners (with or without carbonation)
- ☒ h) Other flavored and/or carbonated beverages

*Includes low fat and nonfat Kefir (cultured milk), buttermilk, acidified milk, acidophilus milk, or nutritionally equivalent milk alternatives as permitted by the school meal requirements. Does not include dairy beverages or dairy drinks (such as drinkable yogurt, milk shakes and protein shakes) or coffee drinks (such as cappuccinos, mochas, or lattes).

New Grant Opportunity for Cafeterias

Do you have a cafeteria that is ready to dive into the world of scratch cooking and locally grown foods but unsure where to begin?

The ALSDE has partnered with the Chef Ann Foundation to develop recipes for Alabama and provide culinary training. Ideal candidates will have minimal scratch-cooking experience yet have a desire to learn to incorporate more scratch-made foods from local ingredients into their menus; however, any interested are encouraged to apply. Approximately 10 schools will be selected for this opportunity.

The challenge will include **recipe testing, culinary training, grant funds, an open house event, and there will be a fabulous culinary workshop opportunity.**



1. Recipe Development:

- Selected schools will test creative recipes developed by the **Chef Ann Foundation**, featuring Alabama Harvest of the Month items. You will prepare and serve dishes to students through engaging taste tests.
- Schools will test approximately 1-2 recipes each month from **March-September 2025** (excluding summer months).
- Recipes will be designed for 50 or 100 servings and will highlight Alabama-grown items, USDA Foods, and SWP items.
- Enjoy on-site culinary assistance during one of your recipe development days.
- Satisfactory recipes will be featured in a recipe book shared with districts across Alabama.
- Be part of something special! Participating schools will be acknowledged in the recipe book.

2. Culinary Training

Cafeteria staff from the selected schools will participate in the following:

- A one-day hands-on culinary class from the Chef Ann Foundation in June or July
- Choose one self-paced, online School Food Institute Course from the following list:
 - "Recipes and Menu Development" 2 hours
 - "Plant Forward" 1.5 hours
 - "Ingredients for Healthier Kids" 2 hours
 - "Salad Bars in Schools" 2 hours



Alabama's Farm to School Culinary Challenge

TOP TOPIC

3. Grant Funds

Each selected school will receive approximately **\$5,000 in funding**, which can be used for:

- **Food costs** related to recipe development, taste testing, and the open house event
- **Travel** to the culinary training or April 2025 event (details below)
- **Small equipment** related to farm-to-school preparation
- **Grow towers** (limited use for taste testing and agriculture education purposes)

4. Open House Event

Requirements:

- **Host** an exciting event in July or August 2025 to promote your Child Nutrition Program!
- **Prepare and sample** three recipes, showcasing Alabama-grown products to parents and the community.
- Promotional items will be provided by the ALSDE to help make your event a success!

5. Optional Innovative Workshop Opportunity

- **Culinary training and farm tours** in Tuscaloosa on April 7th-8th, 2025!
- **Learn** how to incorporate Alabama-grown mushrooms into school meals from a Tuscaloosa Chef
- **Explore** the Underground Forest and visit Tuscaloosa County Schools' unique teaching farm to inspire creativity and innovation in your school nutrition program.

Alabama's Farm to School Culinary Challenge

TOP TOPIC

Optional Innovative Workshop Opportunity

in Tuscaloosa, Alabama

April 7th-8th, 2025



Underground Forest



TCSS Ag Farm

Selection Details:

- The school/district will need to be in good standing with the ALSDE to be selected for the program. This means that the district meets all requirements in its program operations, is current with its financial obligations, and if applicable, has implemented all corrective action from prior administrative reviews.
- For this program, the ALSDE will seek to select districts representing various regions across Alabama. Ideal candidates will have minimal scratch-cooking experience yet have a desire to learn to incorporate more scratch-made foods from local ingredients into their menus.

**Please Note:*

This program is separate from the Team Nutrition Training Grant and personal incentives are not available as part of this program.



Interest Meetings

- Thursday, February 6th, 2025 at 2:00 p.m: [Click here for meeting link.](#)
- Wednesday, February 12th, 2025 at 2:00 p.m: [Click here for meeting link.](#)

Interest meetings may be forwarded to any interested CNP managers or staff. We will cover the same details as today and answer any questions.

The majority of staff at the nominated school need to be interested in participating. Directors may nominate as many schools as they would like.

Nominations for schools must be submitted by 5:00 PM on Friday, February 14th, 2025:

<https://forms.office.com/r/abSQBLg5ah>

Table Talk - Chef Ann Foundation

Courtney Williams - Senior Coordinator, Specialized Programs

Thursday, January 30, 2025



About the Chef Ann Foundation

Founded in 2009 by Chef Ann Cooper, the Chef Ann Foundation is a 501c(3) nonprofit that provides school communities with tools, training, resources, and funding to create healthier food.

To date, we have reached over 14,000 schools and 3.4 million kids with healthy school programming.



Meet the Team



Lori Nelson
Chief Officer, School Food
Operations



Brandy Dreibelbis
Executive Director of Culinary



Rachel Reed Sanow
School Food Operations
Specialist



Meet the Team



Patrick Kenneally
Senior Operations Specialist



Courtney Williams
Senior Coordinator, Specialized
Programs



Auburn City

- Innovation in Nutrition Education

Athens City

- Innovation in Nutrition Education

Elmore County:

- Innovation in the Preparation of School Meals
- Innovation in Nutrition Education

Limestone County

- Innovative School Lunch Makeover

Marshall County

- Innovation in the Preparation of School Meals



In partnership with



Alabama's Junior Chef Competition



1st Place

Haleyville City Schools
Korean BBQ Chicken Sandwich



2nd Place

Dekalb County Schools
Meatless Monday
Southwest BBQ Nachos



3rd Place

Fort Payne City Schools
Sweet Chili Chicken Noodle Bowl

Alabama's Junior Chef Competition



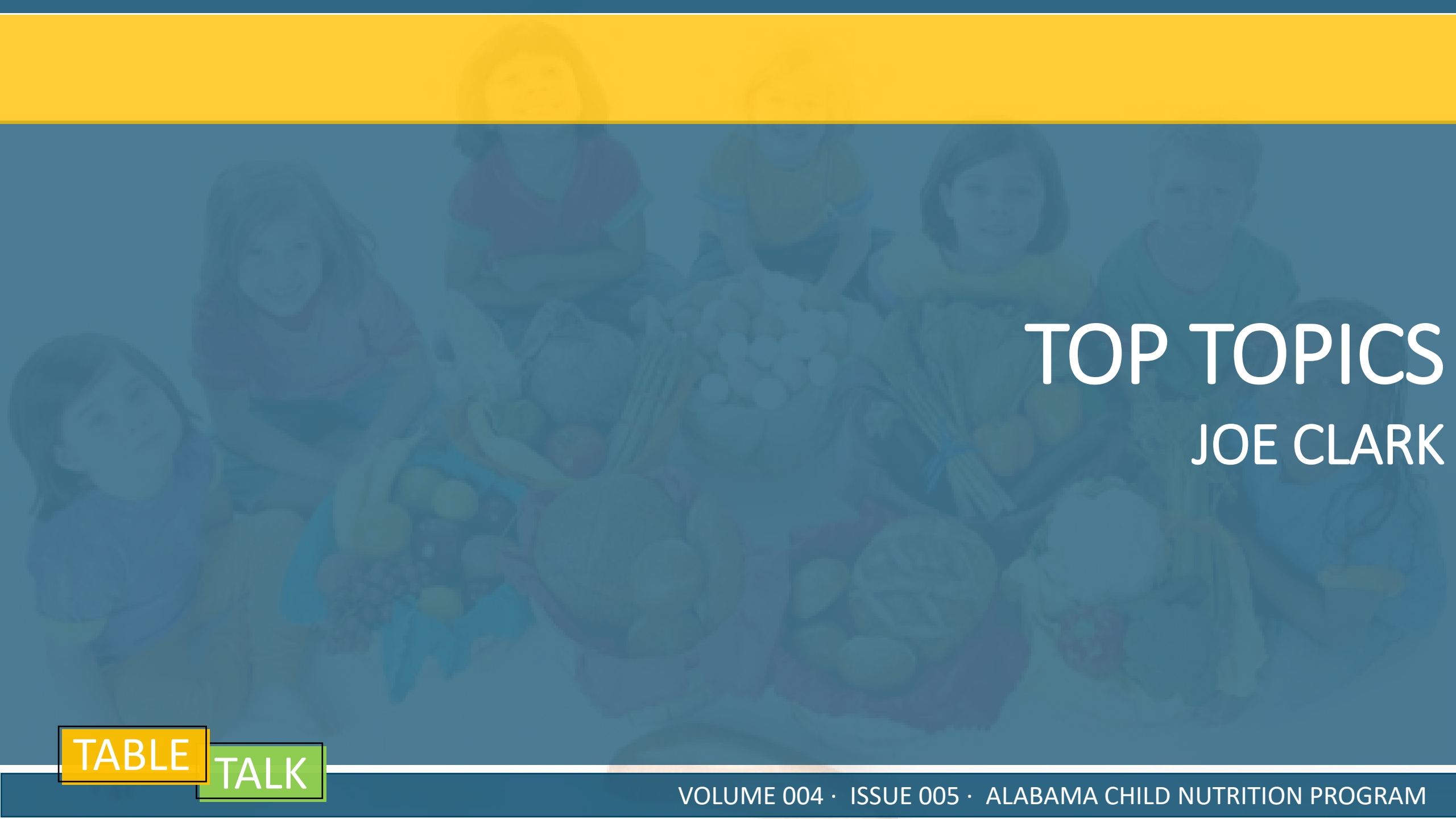
**First Place Team
Haleyville City Schools**



Alabama's Junior Chef Competition

TOP TOPIC





TOP TOPICS

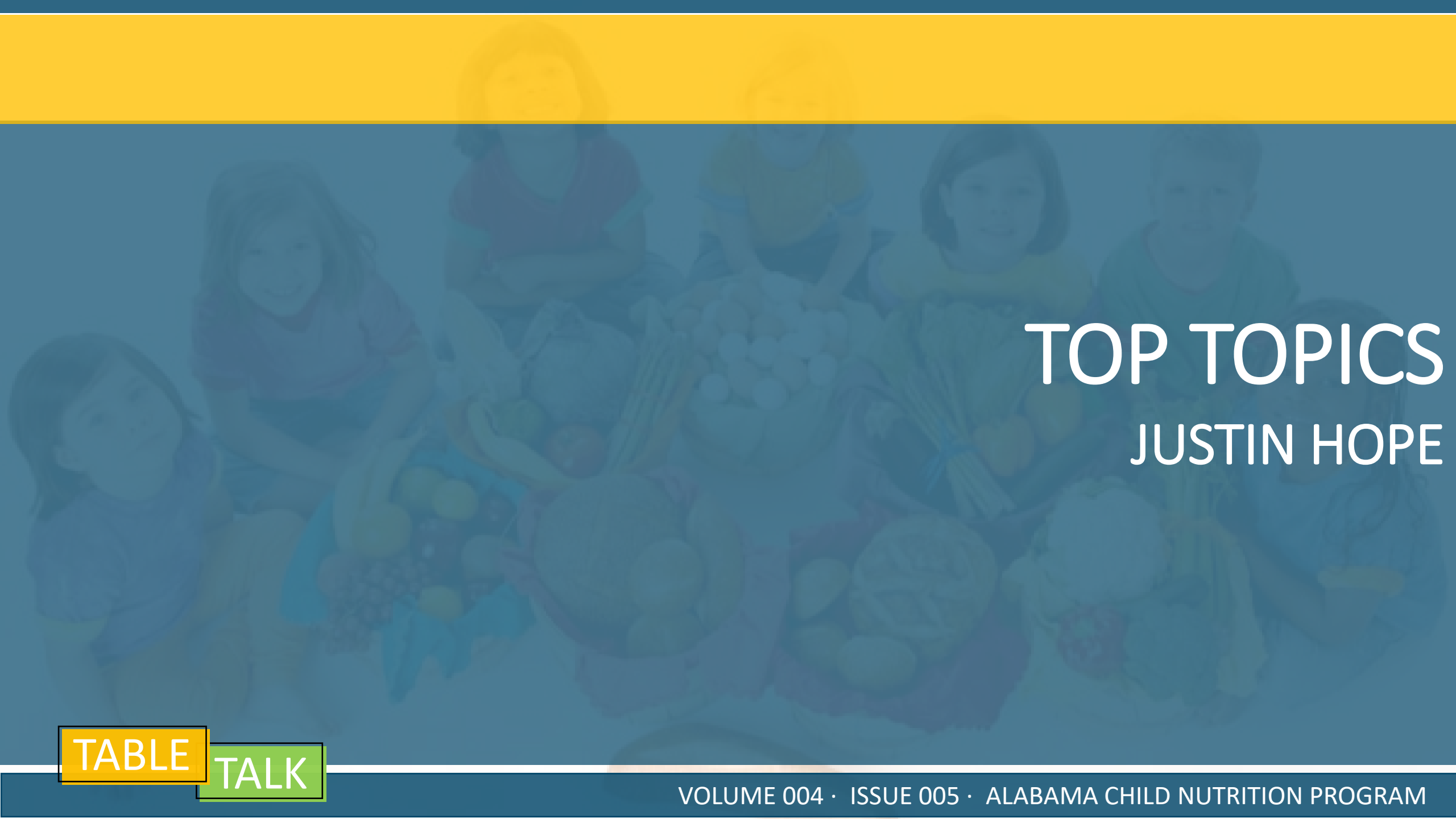
JOE CLARK

TABLE TALK

VOLUME 004 · ISSUE 005 · ALABAMA CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

CNP Annual Report

- Earlier this week, a DocuSign envelope was sent to all SFAs.
- The annual report will take the place of the financial profiles for our public schools and the CNPAR for private schools and RCCIs.
- The previous DocuSign was sent before it was ready. There were some computation errors as well. The updated DocuSign is correct.
- If the calculations show an operating balance greater than three months, a corrective action plan (aka a spend down plan) will be required.
- Feel free to email jclark@alsde.edu with any questions.



TOP TOPICS

JUSTIN HOPE

TABLE TALK

VOLUME 004 · ISSUE 005 · ALABAMA CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

SFA Real Property Identification Survey

2 CFR 200.1

Real property means land, including land improvements, structures, and appurtenances thereto, and legal interests in land, including fee interest, licenses, rights of way, and easements. Real property excludes moveable machinery and equipment.

Emailed to all Directors on Thursday, January 23, 2025

Due January 29, 2025

<https://forms.office.com/r/zAXwEkeVPK>



Virtual User Group

WHO : All Alabama Directors & Assistants who use Titan

WHAT : Virtual Meeting for Users with information on LINQ Connect, Titan, Titan Purchasing and Q & A with the LINQ Team

HOST: Carla Yamada- Director of Strategic Resolutions- Client Experience
Michelle Michels- Director of Consulting Services- Client Experience

WHEN : **Friday, February 28 @ 1:30pm**

WHERE : Virtual- Zoom Meeting

<https://us-23212.join.gong.io/linq/carla.yamada/9107737023617739068>



TITAN
A LINQ SOLUTION



LINQ
School Nutrition Suite



TOP TOPICS

LORIA HUNTER

TABLE TALK

VOLUME 004 · ISSUE 005 · ALABAMA CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM



Traditional Congregate Meal Service

- SFSP
- SSO



Rural Non-Congregate

- Parent/Guardian Pick-Up
- Home Delivery
- Mobile Route Distribution



SEBT

Summer 2025



SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

TRAINING

- Public Release – January 17th and January 23rd
- Training Registration – QR code or link
- Pre-recorded Presentations – Jan 31st, Feb 7th, and Feb 14th
- Verification of Training – access to online application
- Applications Due - May 1st (SA)
June 15th (USDA)



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



SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

SUMMER 2025

- SFSP LINQ Application
- SSO use old online application
- Expand Rural Non-Congregate Meals
 - Self Prep Sponsors Only
 - Unitized or Bulk Meals
- No Kid Hungry Grant – QR Code
- Increase Program Integrity – LINQ Meal Counter
- SEBT – Outreach
 - SFAs

Vendor provided promotional materials

Basic information for program access and eligibility

- Eligible Children

Students on DC file **Exception:** extended eligibility students

F/R eligible students based on NSLP school meal apps

REMINDER: SEBT **not** PEBT

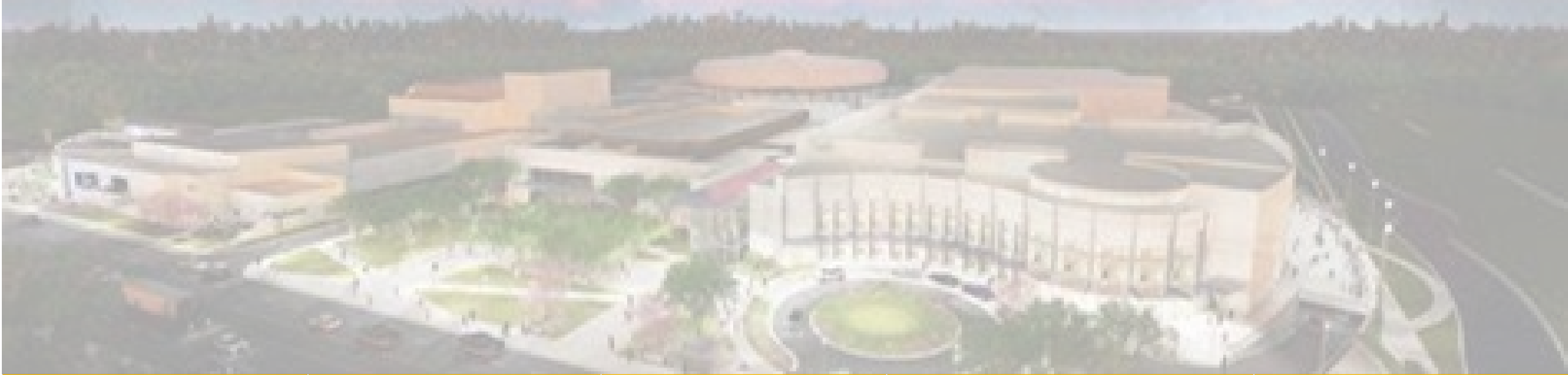


TRAINING TIDBITS

ROBBIE SCOTT

TRAINING TIDBITS

Alabama School Nutrition Association Conference 2025



DATE	TRAINING	LOCATION	AREA
May 1 – 2, 2025	ALSDE	Von Braun Center	Huntsville, AL
May 2 – 3, 2025	ASNA		

TRAINING TIDBITS



THE FUTURE IS NOW . . .
INNOVATING TODAY . . .
IMAGINING TOMORROW!

**ALABAMA SCHOOL
NUTRITION ASSOCIATION
CONFERENCE 2025**

Von Braun Center
May 2-3, 2025
Huntsville, Alabama



SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

SHARON ALLISON

TABLE

TALK

Sponsor Spotlight



Number of Sites : 14 and 2 on the way by 2028

Number of Employees : 58

Years in Child Nutrition : 19 years in CNP
(17 years in Auburn, AL; 2 years in Athens, GA;
and 3 years as a middle school teacher)



Dr. Ashley Powell
CNP Director
Auburn City

Current Position at SNA: Vice President

Ashley stated, “I am absolutely honored and I hope to represent all of you well in all of our advocacy for our state and students! I can’t thank you enough for your support.”

Favorite Part of the Job: The variety and the darling faces of the little ones coming through the lunch line!

Most Meaningful Part of the Job: Knowing that we are impacting the success of the upcoming generation!

Best Advice: Find some friends in the business! Friends that will help you, look out for you, and encourage you when the going gets tough. Ashley stated, *“I remember making friends with another CNP director when I was in Georgia as a coordinator. We were the youngest in the state and learned together. We keep in touch to this day. I couldn’t do it without the friendships in the business!”*

Least Favorite Part of the Job: Canceled trucks and food shortages that are out of our control . . .
brings back COVID anxiety every time!

TABLE

TALK

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/m5sJnRKDse?origin=IprLink>





Ask Us