



TABLE

TALK



Alabama State Department of Education
Child Nutrition Programs

VOLUME 004

ISSUE 006

February 27, 2025

OVERVIEW

- Private School ISP Reports are past due!
- Smart Snack Cautions
- USDA request for Public Comment

Reviews and Reminders

Monthly Memos

- ALSDE
- USDA

- Equipment Grant
- Farm to School Culinary Challenge
- Oxford City Open House
- Monroe County Grow Towers
- Harvest of the Month
- Titan Virtual User Group

Top Topics

Training Tidbits

- Conference Dates
- Training Dates

- Melva Krell

Sponsor Spotlight



REVIEWS AND REMINDERS

ROBBIE SCOTT

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REVIEWS AND REMINDERS

ATTENTION PRIVATE SCHOOLS...

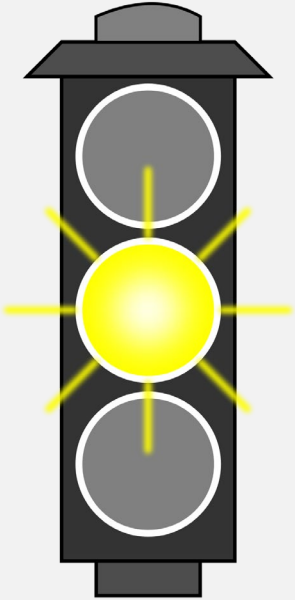
Identified Student Percentage (ISP) Reports are now past due.

- If yours has not been submitted, please submit it as soon as possible.
- If report is not submitted, you will not be eligible for CEP in SY25 –26.

Note: ISPs may continue to be updated and submitted until April 1st.



REVIEWS AND REMINDERS



Smart Snack Cautions...

Never ASSUME!



Not ALL Nutri-Grain bars are smart snack compliant!

It is very important to run products through the Smart Snack Calculator to ensure compliance.

Some of the Nutri-Grain bars are not compliant due to "sugar exceeding 35% sugar by weight".

REVIEWS AND REMINDERS

DON'T MISS
THE DEADLINE!

USDA Requests for Public Comments Deadline Approaching

- Comments on Grain-Based Desserts and High-Protein Yogurt Crediting in CNP
- Request for information was issued December 26, 2024.
- Comments may be submitted through March 26, 2025.
- Use this link to submit comments through March 26, 2025.

www.regulations.gov

REVIEWS AND REMINDERS

In [Request for Information: Grain-Based Desserts and High-Protein Yogurt Crediting in Child Nutrition Programs](#), the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) requests comments from the public. The request for information was issued on December 26, 2024, to obtain input to help inform future policymaking, guidance, and technical assistance related to grain-based desserts and high-protein yogurt crediting in Child Nutrition Programs (CNP).

The public is invited to submit comments to www.regulations.gov through March 26, 2025.

On February 7, 2023, FNS issued a [proposed rule](#) to update Child Nutrition Program (CNP) meal pattern requirements. The rule included a proposal to limit **grain-based desserts** in the School Breakfast Program to no more than two ounce equivalents per week, consistent with the National School Lunch Program. However, based on public feedback, FNS did not finalize that proposed limit in the [final rule](#), which published on April 25, 2024. Partners raised concerns that the proposal would limit options at school breakfast and recommended that FNS re-evaluate use of grain-based desserts at school breakfast. In the final rule, USDA committed to exploring methods for improving and simplifying grain-based dessert requirements by soliciting further partner input.

Yogurt is a popular menu item in CNPs. It may be offered in a variety of forms: plain or flavored, unsweetened or sweetened, strained or non-strained, and/or high-protein or regular; as a standalone option or in different menu items, such as yogurt parfaits or smoothies. The variety of yogurt available at retail and in the K-12 market, including **high-protein yogurt** (e.g., Greek and Greek-style yogurt), has grown and evolved significantly. Therefore, in 2017, FNS requested public input on whether high-protein yogurt (including Greek and Greek-style yogurt) should credit differently than regular yogurt. Those comments were mixed and, as a result, FNS maintained consistent crediting for all yogurt in the CNPs. FNS is now seeking additional public input to determine if any new information warrants a change to yogurt crediting in the CNPs.

Additional Resources:

- More information about the request for information can be found on the FNS website: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/fr-122624>
- Comments can be submitted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to [Request for Information: Grain-Based Desserts and High-Protein Yogurt Crediting in Child Nutrition Programs](#) and follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

For more information on submitting comments, please see Tips for Submitting Effective Comments here: [Tips-For-Submitting-Effective-Comments.pdf](#). (Please note this is a Federal Register resource and not an FNS resource.)



MONTHLY MEMOS

CHAD LANGSTON

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MONTHLY MEMOS

ALSDE Memo (emailed to all directors on 2/3/2)

- Reminder: National School Breakfast Week Activities

USDA Memo (emailed to all directors on 2/3/25)

- 2024-25 Survey IV on Supply Chain Disruption and Student Participation

USDA Memo (emailed to all directors on 2/19/25)

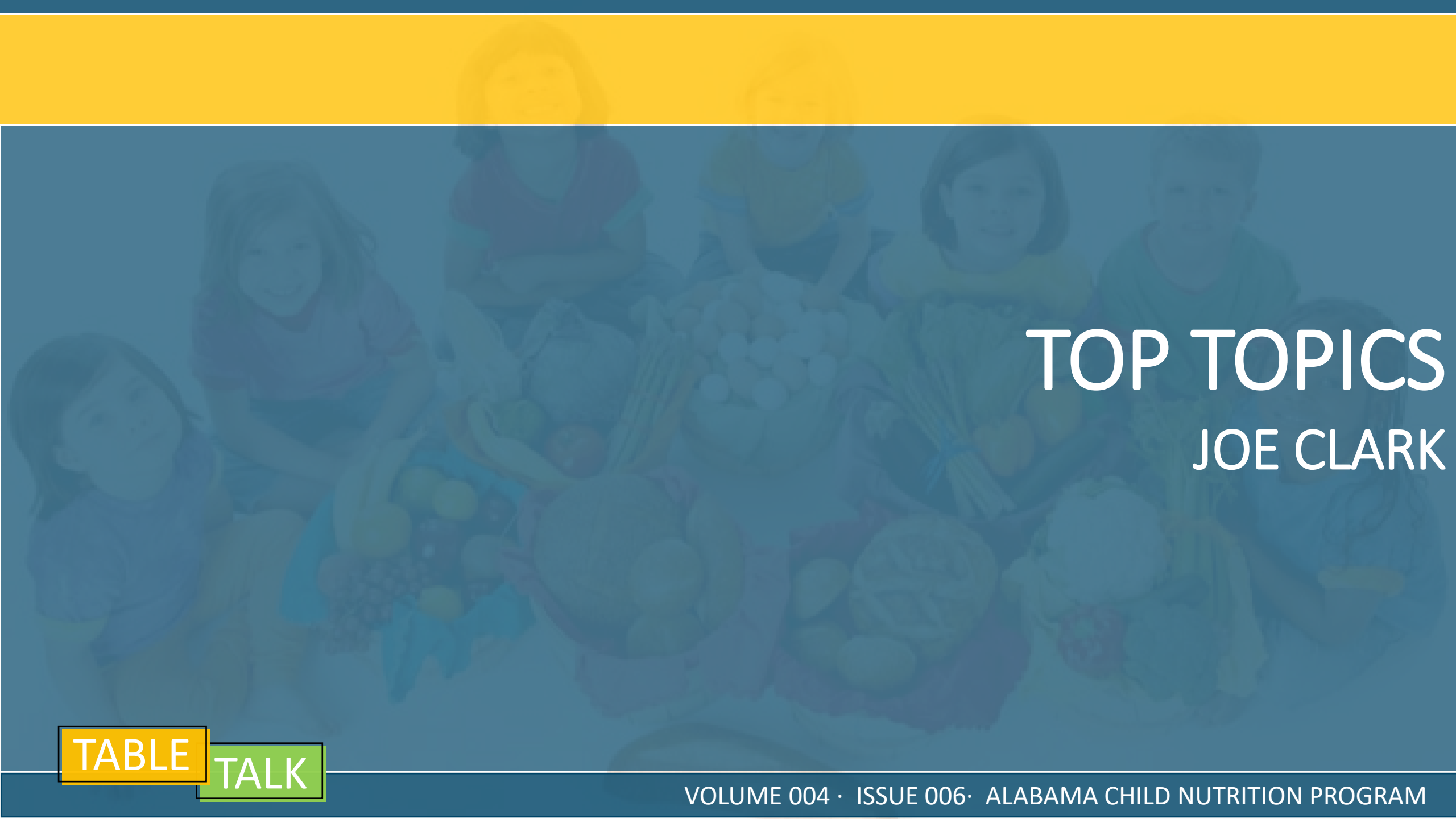
- Letter from Secretary Rollins - Nutrition Programs

USDA Memo (emailed to all directors on 2/20/25)

- FNS Announces Website Posting of Webinar on Request for Information: Grain-Based Desserts and High-Protein Yogurt Crediting in Child Nutrition Programs

USDA Memo (emailed to all directors on 2/24/25)

- SP 09-2015: Buy American Accommodation Process for School Year 2025-2026



TOP TOPICS

JOE CLARK

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CONGRATULATIONS!

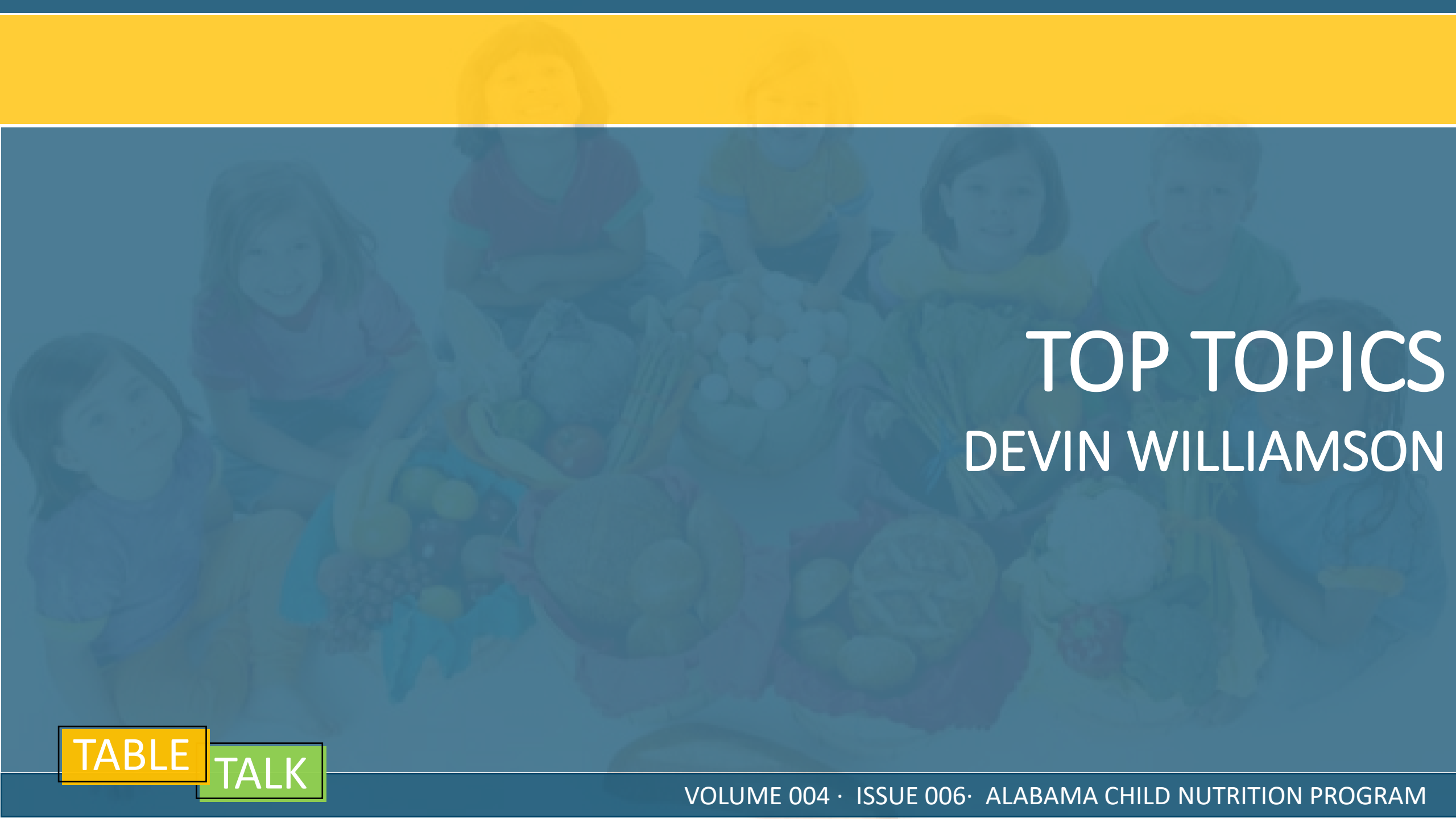
TABLE TALK

FY24 Equipment Grant Awardees:

Bibb County
Colbert County
Chickasaw City
Gadsden City (two schools)
Haleyville City
Cornerstone Schools of Alabama

If you applied for the FY23 grant, were not awarded
but purchased and installed equipment,
please email me at joe.clark@alsde.edu.





TOP TOPICS

DEVIN WILLIAMSON

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Awardees

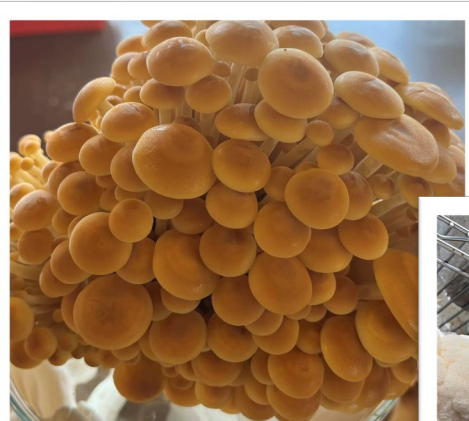
District	School
Andalusia City Schools	Andalusia Elementary School
Gulf Shores City Schools	Gulf Shores High School
Haleyville City Schools	Haleyville Elementary School
Holy Family School	Holy Family School
Homewood City Schools	Homewood High School
LEAD Academy	LEAD Academy Charter School
Lee County Schools	Wacoochee Elementary School
Pell City Schools	Pell City High School
Restoration Academy	Restoration Academy
University Charter School	University Charter School

Alabama's Farm to School Culinary Challenge

TOP TOPIC

Workshop Opportunity 
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Tuesday, April 8th, 2025



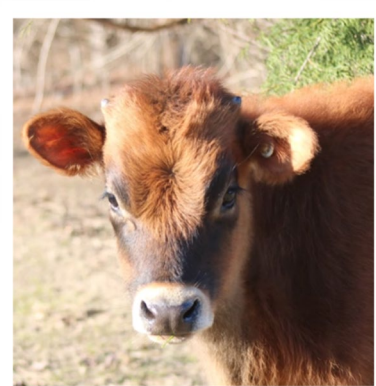
Underground Forest

Alabama's Farm to School Culinary Challenge Workshop

Tuscaloosa, Alabama

April 8th, 2025

- 7:40** Bus Departs from City Parking behind Embassy Suites (2410 University Boulevard)
- 7:45** Sign-in
- 8:00** Taste Testing Tips & Small Equipment Demo by the Chef Ann Foundation
- 9:45** Bus Departs from TCSS Central Office
- 10:00** Tour of "Forest" of Underground Forest (Mushroom Farm)
- 11:30** Bus Departs from Forest
- 11:30** Enjoy Lunch on your Own!
Nearby restaurants: Chipotle, Mediterranean Sandwich Company, Whataburger, Moe's Southwest Grill, Swen Chinese Restaurant
- 1:00** Bus Departs from Parking Lot
- 1:30** Tour Tuscaloosa County Schools' Agriculture Teaching Farm
- 3:00** Bus Departs from TCSS Ag Farm
- 3:30** Bus Arrives at City Parking Behind the Embassy Suites



TCSS Ag Farm

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Oxford City Open House Event

TOP TOPIC



Oxford City Schools
Proud of our Past, Preparing for the Future

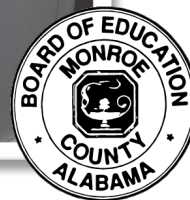


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Monroe County School Grow Towers

TOP TOPIC



MONROE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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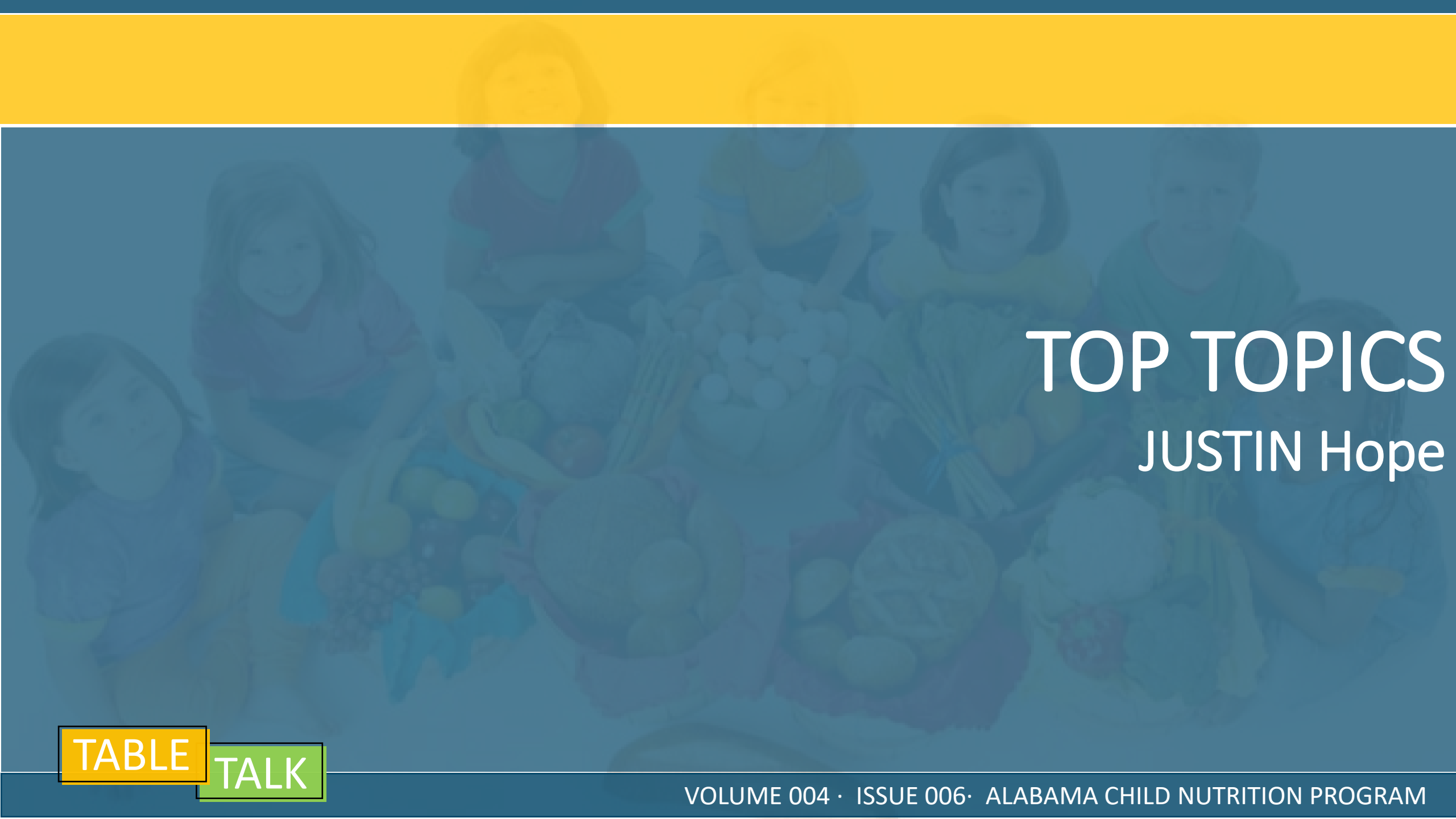
Upcoming Harvest of the Month Items

- April HOM items: Strawberries and Cauliflower
- May HOM items: Cucumbers and Yellow Squash
- June HOM items: Bell Peppers and Eggplant

[HOM Posters](#) and [Local Product Flyers](#)
by the AL Department of Agriculture

Remember to tag #ALF2S!





TOP TOPICS

JUSTIN Hope

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LINQ School Nutrition Webinar

WHO : All Alabama Directors & Staff who use Titan

WHAT : Virtual Meeting for Users with information on LINQ Pay, LINQ Nutrition Suite, Statewide Procurement update/implementation 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



TRAINING TIDBITS

ROBBIE SCOTT

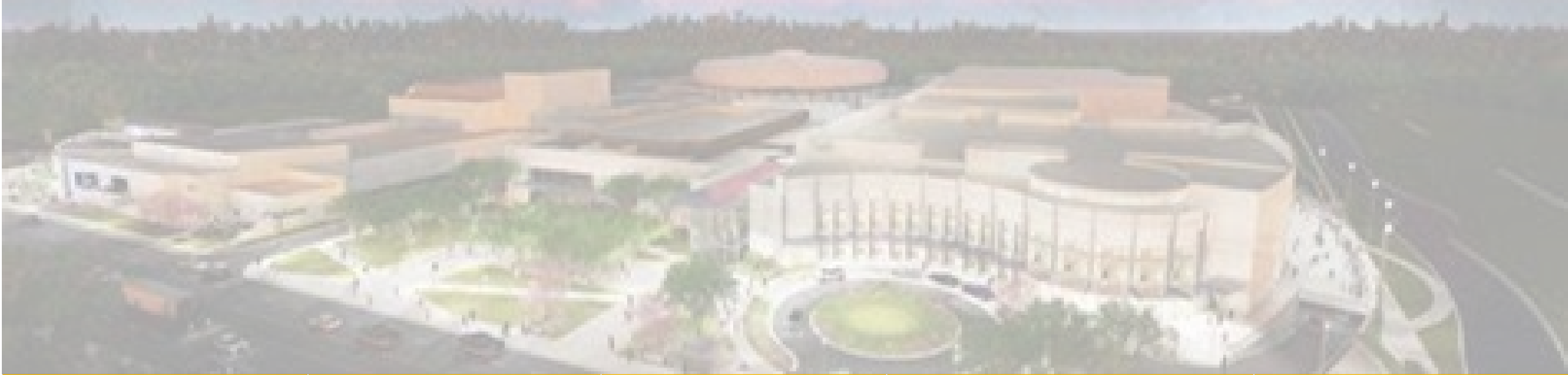


TRAINING TIDBITS

EVENT	DATE	TRAINING	LOCATION	AREA
Alabama School Nutrition Association Conference 2025	May 1 – 2, 2025	ALSDE	Von Braun Center	Huntsville, AL
	May 2 – 3, 2025	ASNA		
NEW MANAGERS TRAINING	June 25 – 26, 2025	New Managers	Shelby County Instructional Services Center	Alabaster, AL
ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW TRAINING	July 29 – 30, 2025	AR Training	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	Montgomery, AL
NEW DIRECTORS TRAINING	August 18 – 22, 2025	New Directors	Gordon Persons Building Zeke	Montgomery, AL
FALL CONFERENCE	November 12 – 14, 2025	Fall Conference	The Grand Hotel Resort and Conference Center	Point Clear, AL

TRAINING TIDBITS

Alabama School Nutrition Association Conference 2025



DATE	TRAINING	LOCATION	AREA
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TRAINING TIDBITS

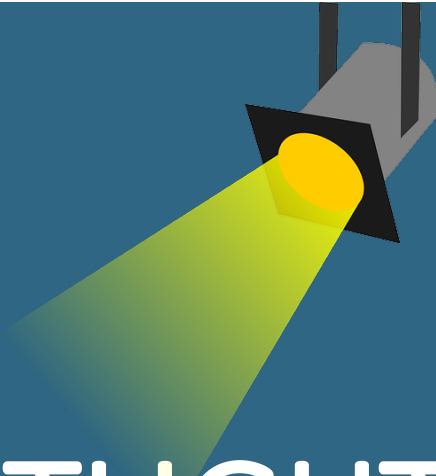


THE FUTURE IS NOW . . .
INNOVATING TODAY . . .
IMAGINING TOMORROW!

**ALABAMA SCHOOL
NUTRITION ASSOCIATION
CONFERENCE 2025**

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



A graphic of a stage spotlight in the top right corner, casting a yellow beam of light towards the center of the page.

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

CHRISTINA GLOVER

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Melva Krell, CNP Director

Number of Sites : 5

Number of Employees : 24

Years in Child Nutrition : 25 years in CNP
(9 years as a CNP Administrative Assistant
and 16 years as a CNP Director)

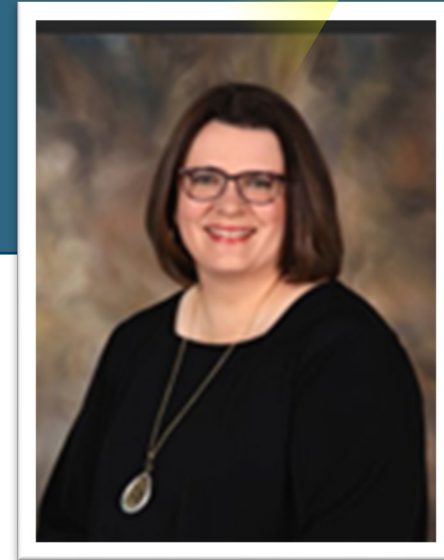
TABLE

TALK

Sponsor Spotlight

Melva Krell

CNP Director
Scottsboro City Schools



Favorite Part of the Job: Visiting schools and seeing the students enjoying their meals, especially when we're introducing new entrees or recipes.

Craziest Event: Getting locked in the cooler! "I sometimes get a little claustrophobic in tight spaces – like walk-in coolers. One day, I was doing a school review and went into a cooler to check a few things off the list. My staff thought it'd be hilarious to block the door, trapping me inside. I remained calm (mostly) and tried not to panic. I quickly said, *If you don't let me out right now, you're all fired!* After that, I made a new rule: *the manager goes in with me . . .* For everyone's safety of course."

Best Advice: Remember that, although your employees are paid to do a job, they are first and foremost human beings with their own personal challenges. It's important to always show them respect and make them feel valued. When you do, they're more likely to respond with loyalty and a stronger commitment to the work they do for you.

Least Favorite Part of the Job: Purchasing new equipment and navigating through the specs and bidding process!

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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

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