



TABLE

TALK



Alabama State Department of Education
Child Nutrition Programs

VOLUME 005
ISSUE 004
OCTOBER 30, 2025

WEBEX RECORDING

Click [here](#) to access the Table Talk Webex Recording.

TABLE
TALK

OVERVIEW





REVIEWS AND REMINDERS

ROBBIE SCOTT

TABLE
TALK

VOLUME 005 · ISSUE 004 · ALABAMA CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

REVIEWS AND REMINDERS

Happy
Halloween *from our patch to yours!*

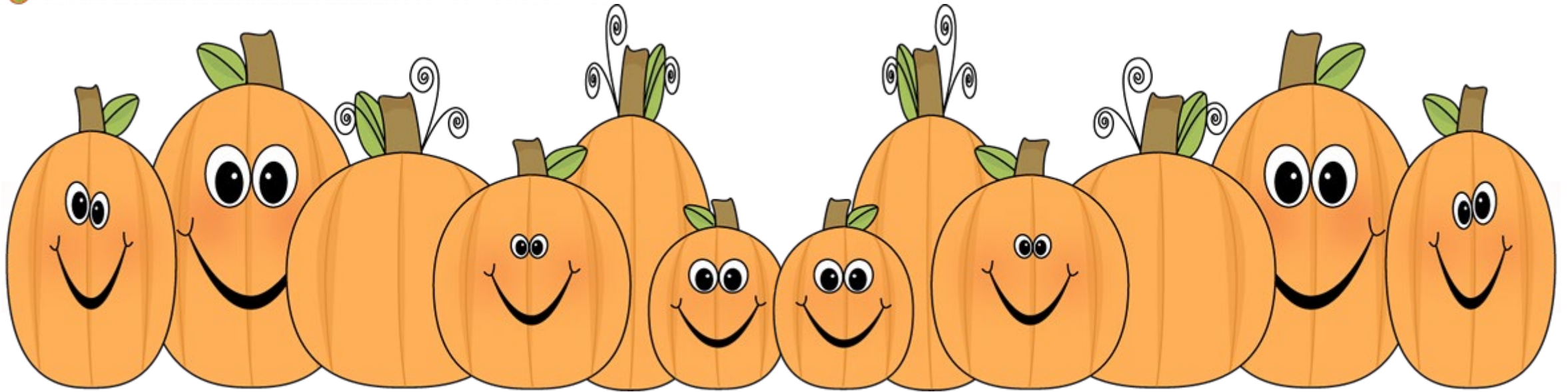


TABLE
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VOLUME 005 · ISSUE 004 · ALABAMA CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM



MONTHLY MEMOS

JULIE AUTREY

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MONTHLY MEMOS

ALSDE Memos emailed to all directors through Constant Contact:

- 9/9/25: updating the State (LINQ) Application and LINQ POS system
- 9/25/25: Table Talk Volume 005 Issue 003
- 9/30/25: ALSDE Rule Proposal: CNP Director Hiring Standards Alignment with USDA
- 9/30/25: You're Invited: Wellness Summit for School Nutrition Professionals
- 9/30/25: Potential Impacts of Federal Government Shutdown on Child Nutrition Programs
- 10/2/25: Farm to School Quarterly Newsletter - October '25
- 10/3/25: FFVP Reminder
- 10/6/25: Alabama Child Nutrition Top Gun Presentation Nomination
- 10/8/25: Private Schools Identified Student Percentage Data Collection for SY25-26
- 10/9/25: Military Veteran Directors
- 10/9/25: Updated Financial Management Handbook
- 10/16/25: Fall Conference Registration Closes Friday
- 10/27/25: Planning Ahead During Uncertain Times
- 10/28/25: Reminder: Scratch-Made Breakfast Contest – Entries Due October 31



TOP TOPICS

SUSANNE REEVES

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October 1	SFAs who <u>verify applications</u> should complete sections 4 & 5 of the Verification Report in the LINQ online application. NOTE: The Verification Report is located in the online application list.
October 31	All SFAs <u>RCCIs and Full District CEP SFAs</u> complete Section 1-3 of the Verification Report on the last operating day of October <u>SFAs Verifying Applications</u> complete Section 1-3 & Section 4 Column B on the last operating day of October
November 15	Verification Must Be Complete
November 18	Verification Report must be completed online



Share Table Resource

TOP TOPICS

- ★ Regulations permitting share tables & donations
- ★ Food Safety Requirements with sample SOP
- ★ Supervision & Record Keeping Requirements
- ★ Chart of items that can be shared



Items that can be shared and re-served	Items that can be shared but must be discarded at the end of service	Items that cannot be shared
-Pre-packaged items (e.g., crackers, cereal, granola bars, chips, canned fruit cups) - Whole fruits with inedible or wrapped edible peels (e.g., bananas, oranges, wrapped apples) - Shelf-stable beverages (e.g., aseptic juice/milk boxes, bottled water)	- TCS foods (e.g., string cheese, sliced apples, baby carrots, yogurt, deli meat) - TCS beverages (e.g., milk cartons, refrigerated juices)	- Opened items (e.g., opened milk, bananas, carrots) - Resealable or unsealed containers (e.g., zip-top bags, soufflé cups, clamshell salads) - Unpackaged TCS foods (e.g., pizza slices, hot vegetables) without proper temperature/time control



Alabama State Department of Education Child Nutrition – School Programs Share Table and Donations Guidance

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) permits the use of share tables in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP) and Afterschool Snack Program (ASSP). Share tables are designated areas where students may return unopened, whole food or beverage items they choose not to consume. These items can then be taken by other students who want additional servings.

Permitted Uses of Share Table Items

- Students may take additional servings from the Share Table at no cost.
- Shelf-stable items may be saved and served again during another meal service(see [USDA Memo: SP 41-2016](#)).
- Items may be donated to a nonprofit organization (See [USDA Memo: SP 11-2012](#) and [ALSDE Memo: Alabama Act 2019-526](#)).

Food Safety Requirements

To ensure food safety, School Food Authorities (SFAs) must:

- Develop a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) as part of their HACCP plan (Click [HERE](#) for sample SOP).
- Ensure Time/Temperature Control for Safety (TCS) foods are not re-served as part of reimbursable meals.
- Use coolers or refrigerators to store TCS foods temporarily, discarding or donating them by the end of the day.
- Implement a “time as a public health control” procedure to discard TCS foods within four hours of original service.

Note: Unopened, packaged non-TCS foods may be returned to the kitchen but must be stored separately from unserved inventory.

Supervision

- Share tables must be supervised at all times.
- Supervisors ensure only safe, unopened, and intact items are placed on the table.
- If cooling bins are used, supervisors must monitor time and temperature.

Local health departments may impose additional requirements before implementing share table.

Record Keeping Requirements

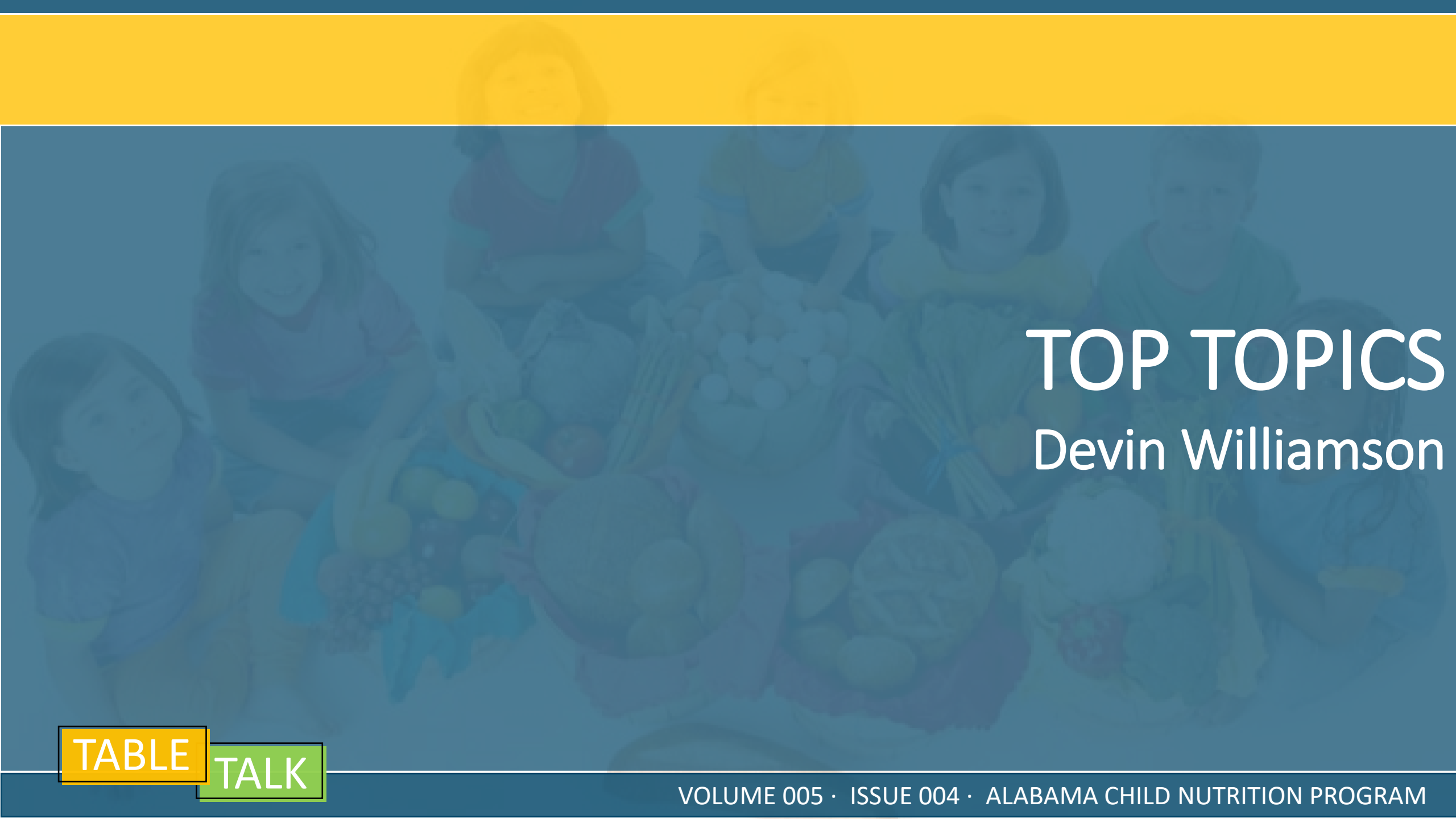
Records should clearly state whether “Share Table” or “Donations” are used, and corresponding daily production records.

Important Reminder

SFAs must continue to plan and prepare meals with the intent of serving one complete meal per child. While occasional leftovers are acceptable, proactive steps should be taken to minimize food waste.



Alabama State Department of Education Child Nutrition – School Programs Share Table and Donations Guidance



TOP TOPICS

Devin Williamson

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Culinary Challenge Cohort #1: Open House Events



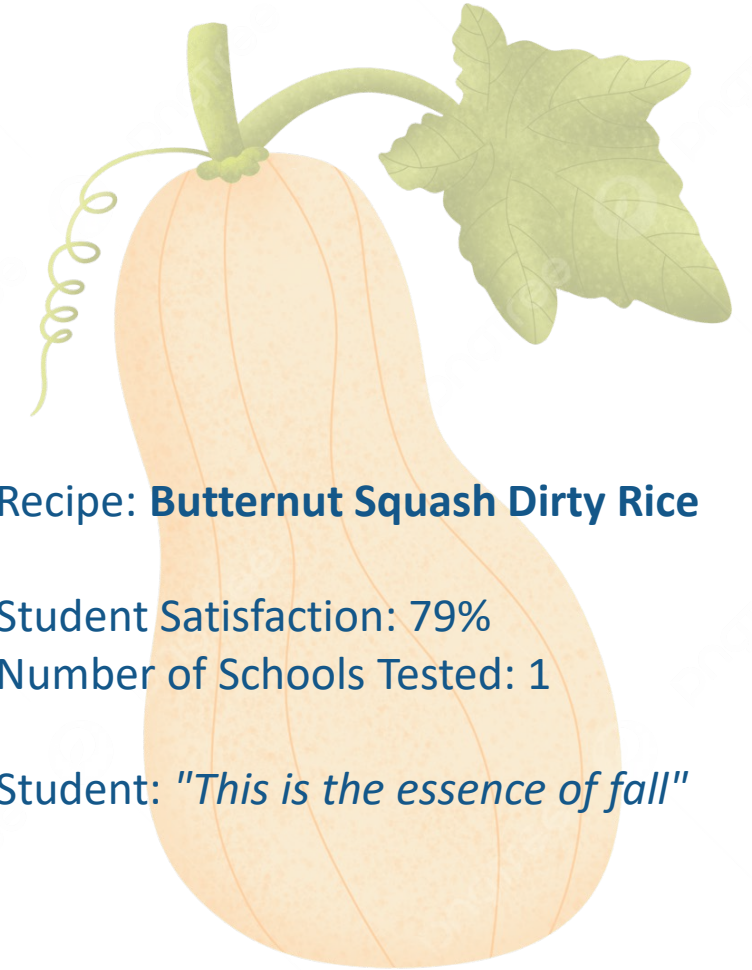
Pell City Schools



Haleyville City Schools



Culinary Challenge Cohort #2: October Recipe Results



Recipe: **Butternut Squash Dirty Rice**

Student Satisfaction: 79%

Number of Schools Tested: 1

Student: *"This is the essence of fall"*



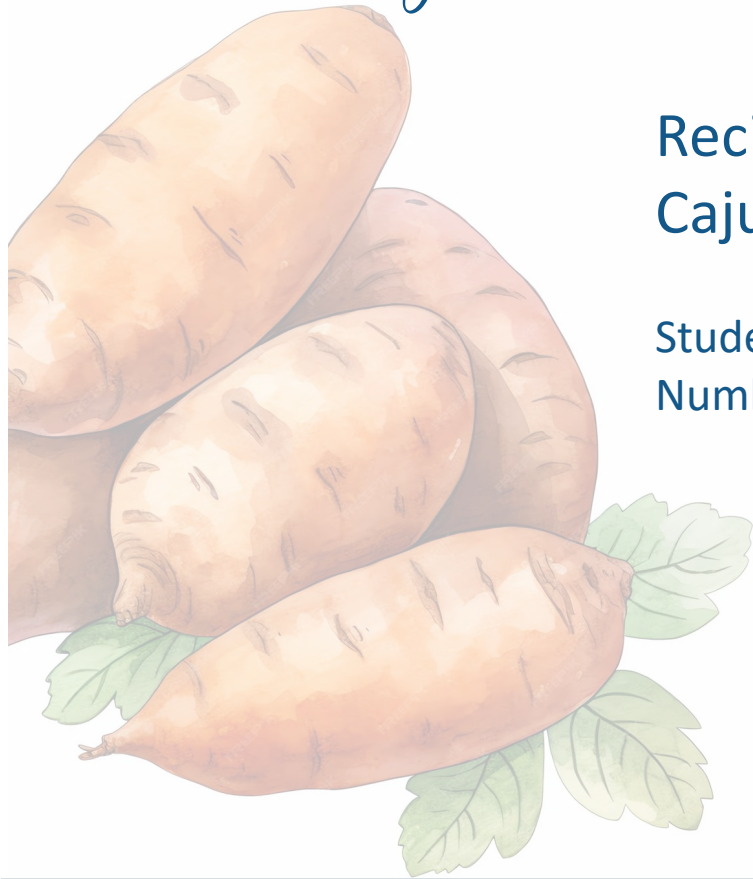
Houston County Schools

Culinary Challenge Cohort #2: October Recipe Results

Covington County Schools

Recipe:
Cajun Sweet Potatoes with Aioli

Student Satisfaction: 54%
Number of Schools Tested: 1



Culinary Challenge Cohort #2: October Recipe Results

Breakthrough Charter & Montgomery

Recipe: Chile Lime Cantaloupe

Student Satisfaction: 85% and 67%

Number of Schools Tested: 2

Photo Credit: Holy Family School Huntsville



Culinary Challenge Cohort #2: October Recipe Results

Recipe: Apple Pecan Crisp

Student Satisfaction: 82%, 39%, 83%, 85%, and 95%
Number of Schools Tested: 5



Morgan County Schools



Corington County Schools



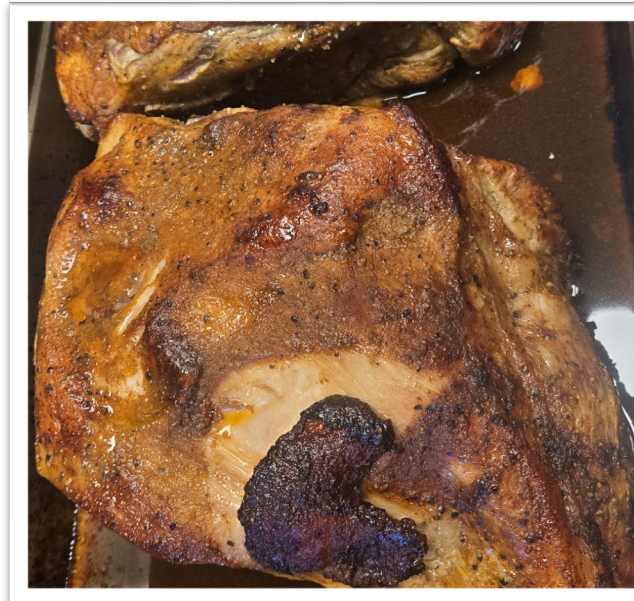
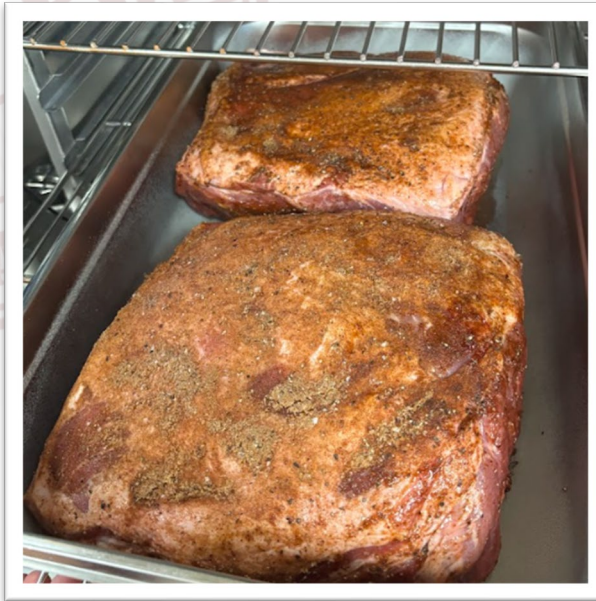
Ozark City Schools

Culinary Challenge Cohort #2: October Recipe Results

Recipe: Pulled Pork Sandwich w/ Alabama White Sauce

Student Satisfaction: 100%

Number of Schools Tested: 1



Houston County Schools

Patrick Leahy Farm to School FY 26 Grant

Applications are out now!

Application Due Date: **December 5, 2025**

Anticipated Award Date: **June 2026**

Start and End Date of Award: **July 2026-June 2028**

****Districts will need to apply directly
with the USDA for this grant.****

Minimum grant award: \$100,000

Maximum grant award: \$500,000

The objective of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Farm to School Grant is to improve access to local foods in eligible CNP sites through comprehensive farm to CNP programming that includes local sourcing and agricultural education efforts.

This application differs significantly in several important ways from past Farm to School Grant Program solicitations.

The USDA Farm to School Team will host office hours to provide applicants with an opportunity to ask questions about the grant program.

Sessions will be held from 2:00-3:00 PM Eastern Time on:

- October 8, 2025 ([Click Here to Join](#))
- October 21, 2025 ([Click Here to Join](#))
- November 5, 2025 ([Click Here to Join](#))
- November 18, 2025 ([Click Here to Join](#))
- December 2, 2025 ([Click Here to Join](#))



Patrick Leahy Farm to School FY 26 Grant

Unique Aspects of the Grant:

- Large Equipment is an allowable expense! For example: walk-in freezers, coolers, processing equipment, hoop houses, salad bars, ovens.
- Requires cost matching from a non-federal source
- Must be a part of a Partnership to apply

Partnership:

A partnership is a group of three or more entities, including a coordinating entity, that will participate in F2S Grant Projects.

Partnership Ideas

-State Agencies:

ALSDE

- Procurement & Regulations
- Equipment Approval Process

ADAI

- Connection to Local Farmers

-Child Nutrition Programs Operators

(NSLP, CACFP, or SFSP)

-Local Agencies

-Agricultural Producers

-Groups of Agricultural Producers

-Non-profits

F2S Breakfast Tray Contest

ALSDE Farm to School Breakfast Contest



The Alabama State Department of Education is excited to launch a contest celebrating scratch-made breakfast recipes that highlight Alabama-grown ingredients in school meals!

ALSDE staff in all departments will select the top ten, and Alabama child nutrition directors will vote on the top ten at our 2025 Fall Conference. The school and district name of the submission will not be revealed to voters (state staff or child nutrition directors). The winning cafeteria will receive recognition of their team and breakfast tray. Please make sure that the pictures that you submit do not disclose your district and school.

*Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!*

The deadline to submit the entry forms below is **October 31st, 2025**.

[Farm to School Breakfast Contest - Google Forms](#)



Apply here!

Due **TOMORROW, October 31st, 2025**

*Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!*

Submission requirements:

- Local item and local farm
- Recipe
- Photo of a close-up of the recipe
- A photo of the recipe on the tray as part of a reimbursable meal
- A photo of the recipe in action (on the serving line, being enjoyed by students, etc.)



NOTE: This may be a recipe from a website or training. It does not have to be an original recipe.

Junior Chef Competition Dates



For an application, email
cnpslp@alsde.edu and copy
devin.williamson@alsde.edu.

*This year only, we are offering a **\$750 travel reimbursement** for the top 7 teams to attend our state competition.*

Applications are out now!



Competition	Dates
State Competition	January 23, 2026
State Competition Back-up Date for Inclement Weather	January 30, 2026
SERO Competition	April 23 rd -24 th , 2026

Both Alabama and SERO competitions will take place at Jefferson State Community College, Shelby-Hoover Campus.

FFVP Standouts

Holy Family School



Chickasaw City Schools

TRAINING TIDBITS

Robbie Scott

TRAINING TIDBITS



EVENT	DATE	LOCATION	AREA
FALL CONFERENCE	November 11 – 14, 2025	The Grand Hotel Resort and Conference Center	Point Clear, AL



The Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa, an Autograph Collection welcomes
ALSDE CNP 2025



2025 CNP Directors' Fall Conference

2025 CNP Directors' Fall Conference Event



Dairy Alliance Virtual Tour and Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries

Tuesday, November 11, 2025 @ 2:00

The Grand Hotel
Conference Center
Grand Ballroom North
3:00 Milk and Cookie Break



Alabama Farm to School Summit



- ★ Procurement Reminders
- ★ Farmer Introduction
- ★ Culinary Demonstration from the Chef Ann Foundation using products from AL farmers
- ★ Meet and Greet time with our amazing Alabama farmers!

2025 CNP Directors' Fall Conference

New This Year!

Welcome Lunch

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

12:00 – 12:45

Azalea Ballroom

NOTE: This will run simultaneously with conference registration.

Stars and Stripes Social

Social Hour sponsored by
Industry Partners

Wednesday, November 12th

4:30 – 6:00

Place: Buckey's Lounge

Red, Bites, and Blue

Social Event sponsored by PMR
PRIVATE EVENT for Directors, Attendees from
SFAs and SA Staff only.

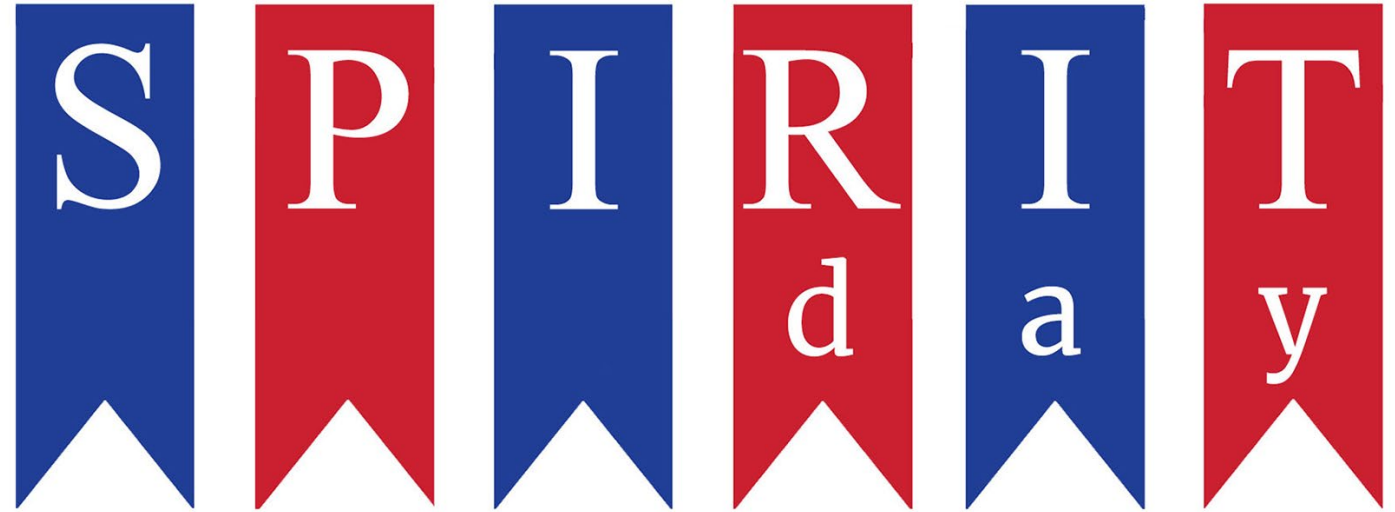
Thursday, November 13th

5:00 – 7:00

South Ballroom Patio

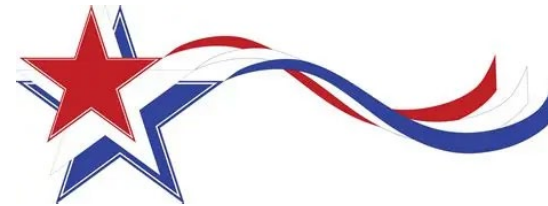
Apps/Beverages/Entertainment and MORE

United for Nutrition: Fueling Young Minds



THURSDAY, November 13th

Red, white and blue and patriotic spirit day!



Show your spirit and join us for a spirited Red, White, and Blue Dress-up Day as part of our conference celebration!

Let's bring the energy, color and creativity together.

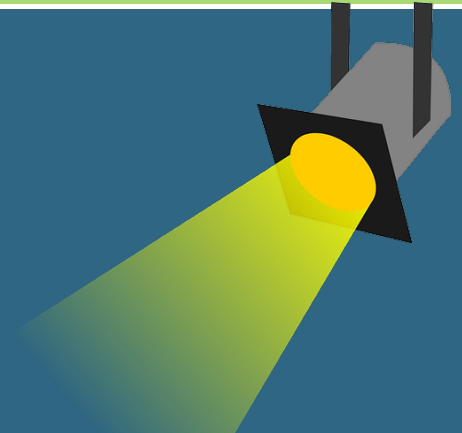
Think stars, stripes, and classic Americana touches. Costumes and accessories encouraged – ties, scarves, jewelry, socks, etc.

STARS, STRIPES, and CONFERENCE SHIRTS!

FRIDAY, November 14th
It's Conference Shirt Day!

Wear your conference shirt to show your connection, commitment and community!
Let's make the last day of conference shine with unity and spirit!

Together we stand United for Nutrition – ONE TEAM, ONE PURPOSE: Fueling Young Minds!



SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

LORI FERGUSON

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Sponsor Spotlight

Mary Beth Henry-Morgan County Schools

of Sites: 16

of Employees: 82

of Years in Child Nutrition: 15+

Favorite Part of the Job: has to be the people I work with. I have 82 fantastic cafeteria workers that work tirelessly at their job. They are the heartbeat of the Child Nutrition Program. They are dedicated, cheerful, and welcoming every day! They take pride in maintaining a cafeteria that is both inviting and appealing. The kitchens run like clockwork, thanks to their experience and teamwork.

Least Favorite Part: is the paperwork. I find myself bogged down creating menus, documenting verification, ordering commodities, processing claims for meals, following up on work orders, bidding out products, and on and on. It seems never ending. This keeps me from visiting my schools. I think, my presence in the cafeteria is of upmost importance.

Most Interesting Thing: I have done is participate in National School Lunch Week October 14-17, 2025. I decided to put a “French Twist” on our lunches and menued some French food. I brought the subject up in August and my staff has gone wild! Every worker is wearing a beret and greeting the students with “Boujour!” We’ve had French toast, Egg/Cheese Souffle, Beignets, Croissants, French Bread pizza, French salad dressing, Chocolate Mousse, Macaron cookies, and Crème Brulle! Several teachers have gotten involved and shared information about France with their students.

Best advice for new CNP Directors: My advice to the new CNP Directors is to be patient. The beginning of the school year is a bit hectic. Supplies run short, schedules change, and we have tough days. But you need to stay calm, focused, and committed. You will find strength in reaching out to other CNP Directors for help. It will show you’re committed to doing the job well. During the second semester, things slow down and you will feel like you have finally caught up. Patience is a quiet strength that will keep you moving forward!



Q & A

Andrew Clark 10/30/2025 1:30 PM • I have two questions regarding multi-school system group buying organizations:

1) When initiating or renewing a bid on behalf of a multi-school system group purchasing organization; do the non-bidding agent schools have to wait to send their request for approval of the bid/renewal to their own Board(s) of Education until the bidding agent's Board has approved it?

a. Example, do I, as the bidding agent, need to have my board approve the Bid before the county board can approve it?

2) When a bidding agent's system does not renew a multi-school system GPO bid can the other systems continue to use the original bid (assuming their Board approves the renewal) or is the entire bid considered null (meaning everyone who was on that bid will now have to bid out)?

Answer: It depends on the individual boards requirements and how the contract is structured. If the contract is structured to allow the individual schools to renew the contract and the vendor agrees then that should be allowable.

Thank you for attending!

Be sure to document your attendance by completing the survey.

Scan the QR code



<https://forms.office.com/r/tYTUdYmth0?origin=lpLink>





Ask Us

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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: <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

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