



Legislative Action Conference 2026

THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO



In using SFSP USDA
the summer
the webinar:
Food Service Program

NUTRITION
ASSOCIATION
Feeding Bodies. Fueling Minds.™

When is LAC?

MARCH 7-10, 2026

Registration opens mid-November

Important Note: Travel days should be Saturday, March 7th through Wednesday, March 11th

Tuesday, March 10th is the designated “Hill Visit day”

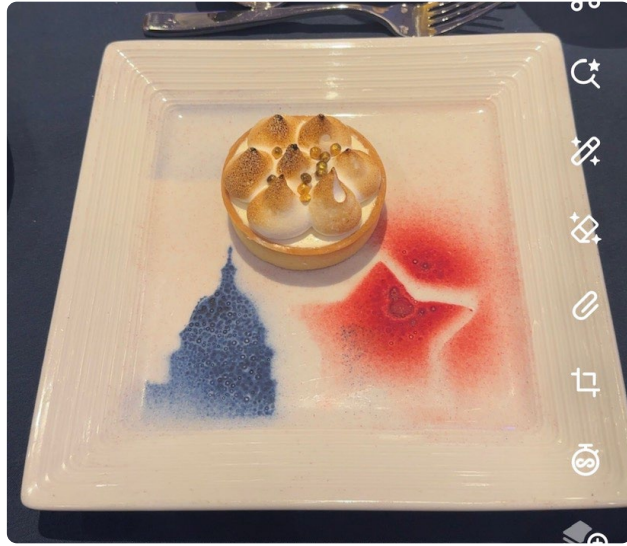
Sightseeing tours should be made on non-conference days



Dress for Success







LAC SIGNATURE DESSERTS

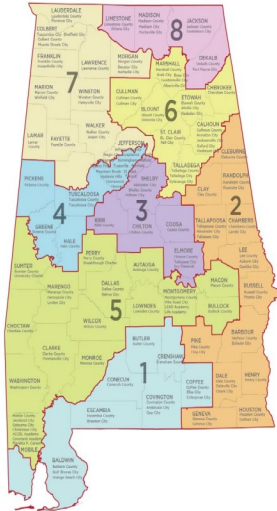




Legislative Advocacy Basics

[SOS.ALABAMA.GOV/ALA
BAMA-VOTES/ELECTED-
OFFICIAL-MAP](https://sos.alabama.gov/alabama-votes/elected-official-map)

State Board of Education



Alabama Public
Schools and Systems
Listed by Alabama
State Board of
Education Districts

Updated September 26, 2025



Alabama State Board of Education

District 1 Jackie Zeigler
District 2 Tracie West
District 3 Kelly Mooney, President Pro Tem
District 4 Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.
District 5 Tonya S. Chestnut, Ed.D.
District 6 Marie Manning, Vice President
District 7 Allen Long, M.D.
District 8 Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.

Governor Kay Ivey, President
Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D., Secretary and Executive Officer



Jackie Zeigler
Representative,
District 01
Phone: 251-605-5139



Tracie West
Representative,
District 02
Phone: 334-524-0880



Kelly McCarthy
Mooney
President Pro Tem,
District 03
Phone: 205-401-4100



Yvette M.
Richardson,
Ed.D.
Representative,
District 04
Phone: 205-527-7186



Tonya S.
Chestnut, Ed.D.
Representative,
District 05
Phone: 334-327-8648



Marie Manning
Vice President,
District 06
Phone: 205-960-3412



Allen Long, M.D.
Representative,
District 07
Phone: 256-394-1143



Wayne
Reynolds, Ed.D.
Representative,
District 08
Phone: 256-509-4822

Legislative Breakfast

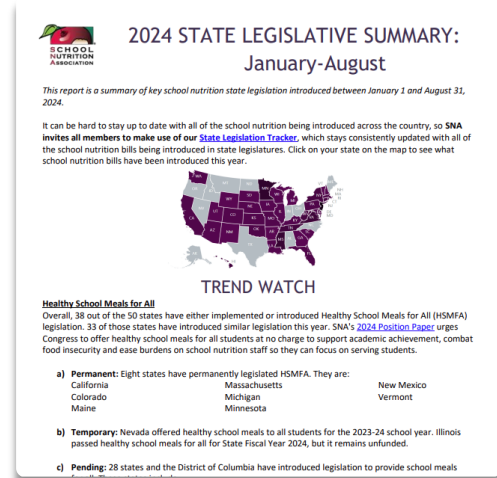
- ▶ Alabama State House
- ▶ ACND



SNA closely tracks federal and state legislation and advocates for school nutrition programs across the country.

- ▶ Healthy School Meals for All (nationally and at the state level)
- ▶ Benefits of Breakfast – thanking AL State Reps for Universal Breakfast for All
- ▶ Potential to lose CEP if SNAP numbers decline
- ▶ LFS – Local Foods in Schools – possibly included on Farm Bill

[State-Legislative-Report-2024-January-August.pdf](#)



Together Starts with You at LAC26!

▶ HOMEWORK:

- ▶ Register for LAC
- ▶ Research Alabama Legislature website
- ▶ Invite a state/local dignitary to lunch
- ▶ Plan to join ASNA for AL LAC in Montgomery this February



2024 Position Paper

School meals are an essential investment in the future of America's children. They are proven to boost academic achievement, improve student behavior and health, and combat food insecurity and obesity. School meal programs are at a perilous juncture since Congress has allowed critical federal assistance to lapse while financial, operational and complex regulatory challenges escalate. To ensure the long-term sustainability of school meal programs, the non-profit School Nutrition Association (SNA) urges Congress to:

- **Permanently increase federal reimbursement rates for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program (NSLP/SBP)** by 40 cents per lunch and 35 cents per breakfast. In a recent 2024 survey of school meal program directors, virtually all (99.3%) reported challenges with increasing costs and fewer than 1 in 5 indicated the current reimbursement rate is sufficient to cover the cost of producing a lunch. Critical assistance for historically underfunded school meal programs is expiring; the loss of fiscal year 2024 reimbursements in July 2023, combined with the end of Supply Chain Assistance Funds in September 2024, will force many districts to tap education funds to cover meal program losses. When asked about the financial sustainability of their programs in just three years, 93.4% of directors flagged concerns. Increased reimbursements are crucial to cover costs, enhance menus and support hiring and retention, as 90.5% of programs report challenges with staffing shortages.
- **Ensure USDA maintains the current, successful school nutrition standards, rather than implementing additional rules.** Research shows students eat their healthiest meals at school, thanks to current nutrition standards which already limit calories, fat and sodium and require fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean protein and low-fat milk in meals. In School Year 2022-23, schools made additional sodium reductions and most increased scratch preparation (52.6%) and locally grown foods (55.6%) on menus.

Regardless of those efforts and despite a lack of any nutrition mandates for dining or retail foods, USDA has proposed even more restrictive, long-term school mandates that fail to account for known challenges, including palatability and student acceptance, as well as availability and pricing of prescriptive foods formulated solely for schools. Confronted with school labor shortages, insufficient equipment, increased and increasingly complex rules, many schools will be forced to rely on highly processed