



Soaring into SUN Programs

2025-2026



Change to CNP – SUN Programs



The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 changed federal nutrition programs. There were two significant adjustments made to summer meals access:

- **Rural Non-Congregate Meal Service**
- **Summer EBT program (SUN Bucks)**





SUN Meals



Traditional SFSP Meals: Congregate

Congregate

Sites – Open/Closed
Enrolled/Camps/Migrant

One Meal per Child per Meal Type



Rural Non-Congregate Meals: **SUN Meals-to-Go**

Grab and Go

Multi-day Meal Issuance

Parent/Guardian Meal Pick-up

Home Delivery (advance written consent required)

Option for bulk meal components (vs. individual portions) – Waiver request, if applicable



SUN Program Sponsors - 2025

SFSP

- 35 Sponsors
- 312 Sites
- 15 sponsors provided Rural Non-Congregate Meals

SSO

- 107 Sponsors
- 503 Sites
- 6 sponsors provided Rural Non-Congregate Meals



Summer 2025

Rural Non-Congregate Sponsors



SSO

County SFAs

- Bullock County BOE
- Ft Payne City BOE
- Henry Co BOE
- Perry Co BOE

City SFAs

- Albertville City BOE
- Scottsboro City BOE

SFSP

County SFAs

- Autauga Co BOE
- Butler Co BOE
- Cleburn Co BOE
- Crenshaw Co BOE
- Elmore Co BOE
- Geneva Co BOE
- Winston Co BOE



City SFAs

- Andalusia City BOE
- Enterprise City BOE
- Gulf Shores City BOE
- Haleyville City BOE
- Oxford City BOE
- Roanoke City BOE

Private Non-Profit Organizations

- Miles of Purpose
- Feeding the Gulf Coast

YOU made a difference!

SSO served 1.4 million meals

SFSP served 2.5 million meals

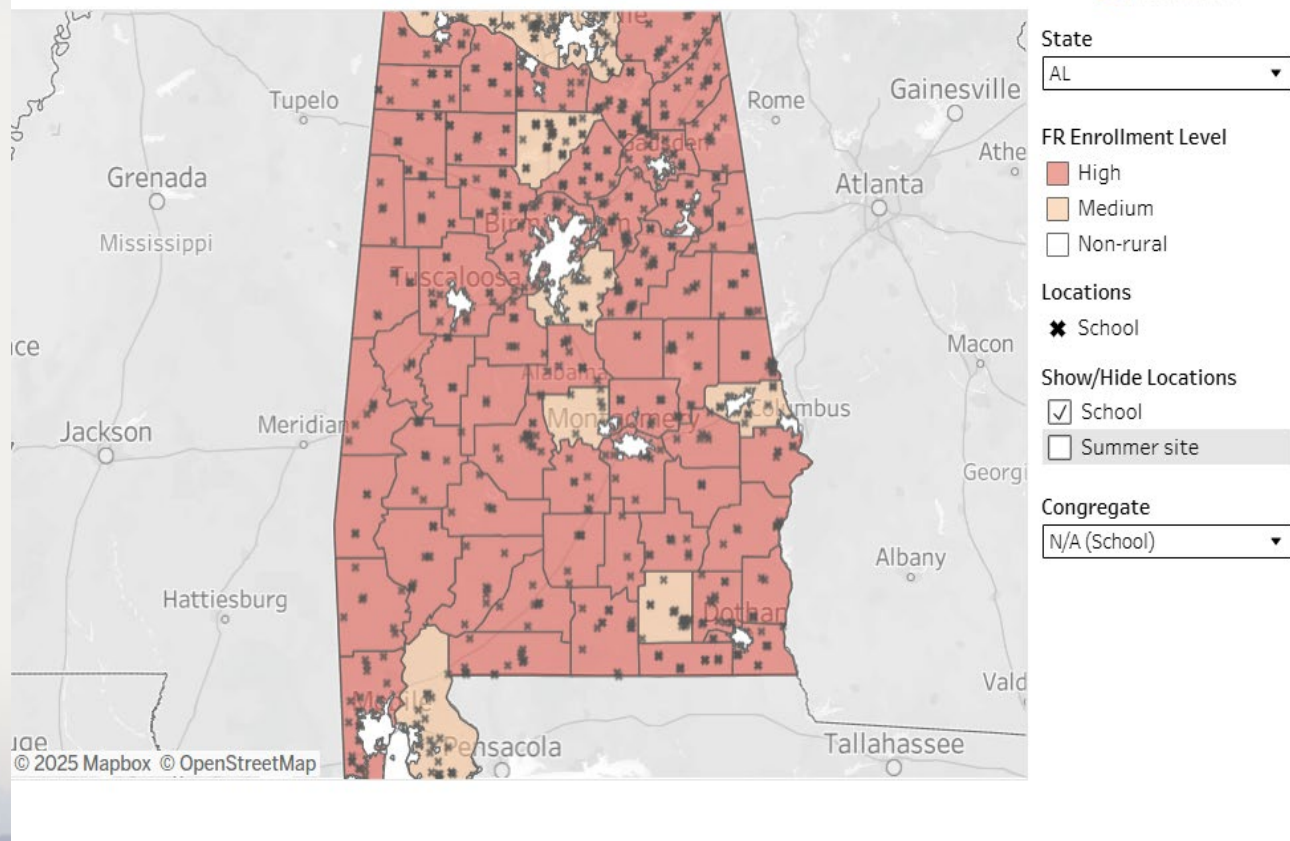
Over 3.9 million SUN meals were served in Alabama by SFSP and SSO summer meals sponsors in 2025

Non-congregate meals served in the state increased from 1.2M meals in 2024 to 1.4M in 2025

64% of summer meals were congregate meals, while 36% were non-congregate meals



Rural High Free/Reduce Enrollment



SUN Programs Challenges - 2025

Two online application processes

- New LINQ online application
- Voluminous Application Submission/Approvals
- Site Finder Upload

Short Staffed

Late Meal Counter Roll Out

Administrative Review

Findings

- Meal Pattern Issues – SSO use NSLP meal pattern
- Application Revisions
- Meal Service
- Meal Counts



Alabama SUN Bucks



Alabama SUN Bucks – Preliminary Data

Number of Children Receiving Benefits
476,948

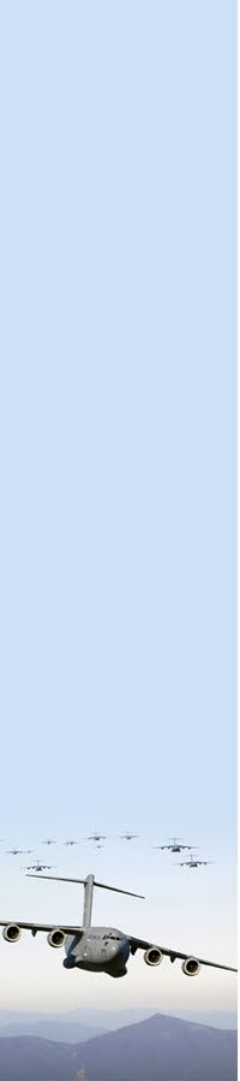
- **Streamline 461,618**
- **Applications 15,330**

Amount of Funds Distributed \$57M



Alabama SUN Bucks Challenges

- **Delayed Contract Award**
- **Verifying Student Enrollment**
- **Duplicate Submissions**
- **Fragmented Communications**
- **Limited SEBT Outreach**



Alabama SUN Bucks: Challenges for Parents

Amount and
Frequency of
Benefits

Eligibility

Timing and
Arrival of
Benefits

Card Set-Up
(Theft of
Benefits)

Benefit
Expiration



SUN
SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS FOR KIDS



Opportunities for 2026 & Beyond

- Consistent and clear messaging
- Timelines for messages
 - Leverage the school calendar
 - Share a simple message on how to apply & who needs to apply
- Better engage schools & community partners
- Joint messaging with summer meals



Communications & Outreach Strategies

Communicate via:

- School District social media
- Email messages, robo-calls, and text messages to parents and caregivers
- Take home flyers at school and at summer meal sites
- School website blurb

Stakeholder Outreach Support

- Family Resource Coordinator/Parent Coordinator
- Principals
- Superintendents
- School Nutrition staff



Looking Forward - 2026

- New Staff on Board
 - RSE Accountant
- Meal Counter Testing
- LINQ Application Enhancements
- NEW LINQ SSO Application
- Face to Face Training
- Virtual Training
- SUN Bucks
 - SSID – PowerSchool Parent Portal
 - Private Schools – Enrollment Data
 - Targeted Outreach





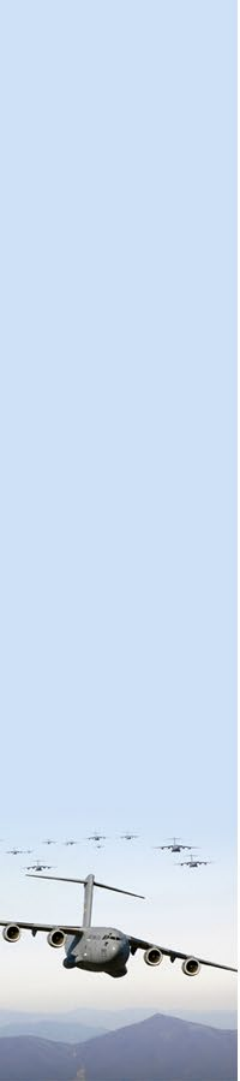
Training - 2026

Face to Face Training Returning Sponsors

- February 2-3 Birmingham
- February 10-11 Mobile
- February 18-19 Montgomery
- Feb 24-25 Montgomery (New Sponsors)
- Feb 26-27 Montgomery (Make-Up Session)

Prospective Sponsor Virtual Training

- December 4
- January 8



Questions??



Email: sun@alsde.edu or
Call 334-694-4660

