



TABLE

TALK



Alabama State Department of Education
Child Nutrition Programs

VOLUME 005
ISSUE 006
MARCH 26, 2026

WEBEX RECORDING

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

OVERVIEW

- LINQ
- NDS
- Health Inspections
- Bookkeeper Training
- Annual Reports
- SUN Program

Reviews and
Reminders

Monthly Memos

- ALSDE
- USDA

- SSO Applications
- SUN Bucks
- ASSP Compliance Concerns
- Virtual Day Meal Service
- SNA's Advocacy
- Off Site Meal Guidance
- Edit Checks
- FFVP Applications
- F2S and Scratch Cooking
- Summer Culinary Trainings
- ALSDE Culinary Challenge
- New Recipes

Top Topics

Training Tidbits

- Dates for Upcoming Trainings
- Area Meetings for Annual Agreement Trainings

- Melinda Bonner
Hoover City Schools

Sponsor
Spotlight

ALSDE STAFF NEWS



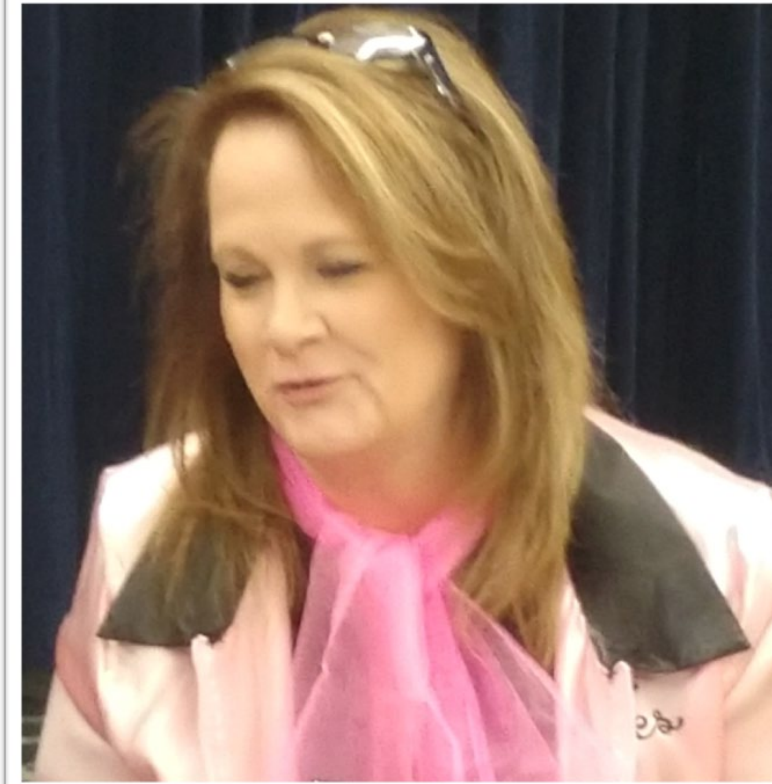
Sharon,
Thank you for your years of faithful service to child
nutrition and the many lives you have touched.

Wishing you a sweet and joyful retirement filled with rest,
blessings and happiness!

We love you and will miss you!
Your CNP Family



We love you, Sharon!



happy retirement

memories

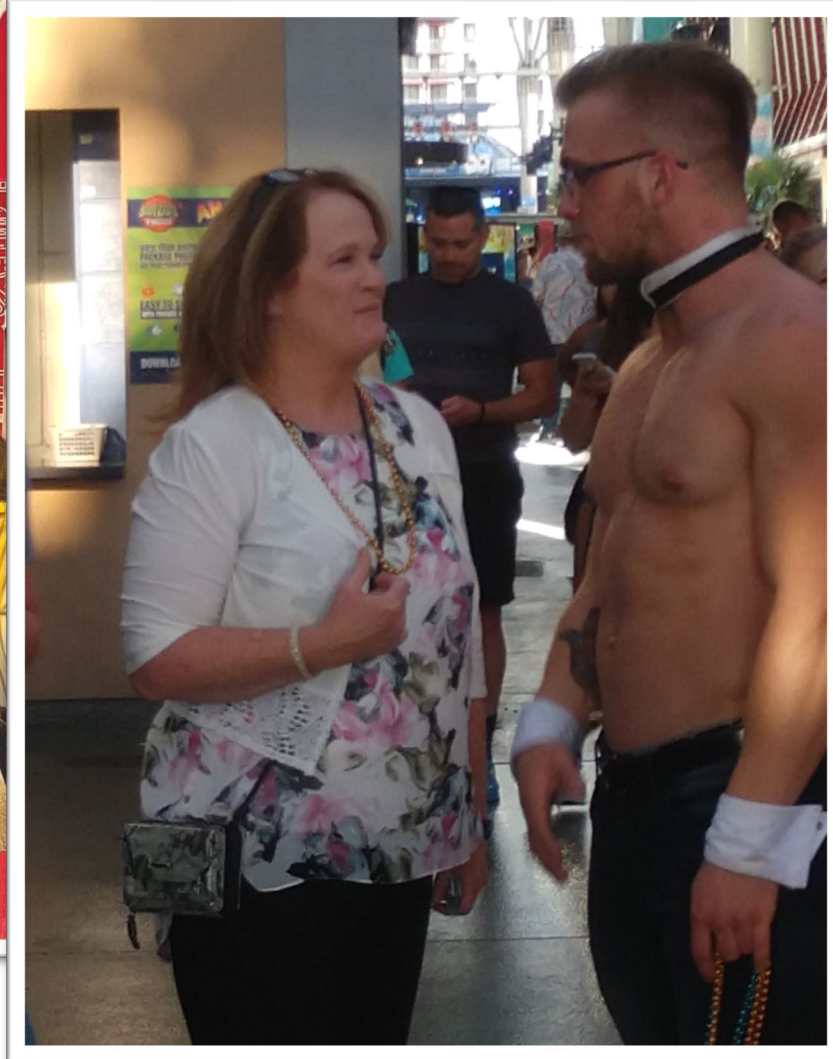
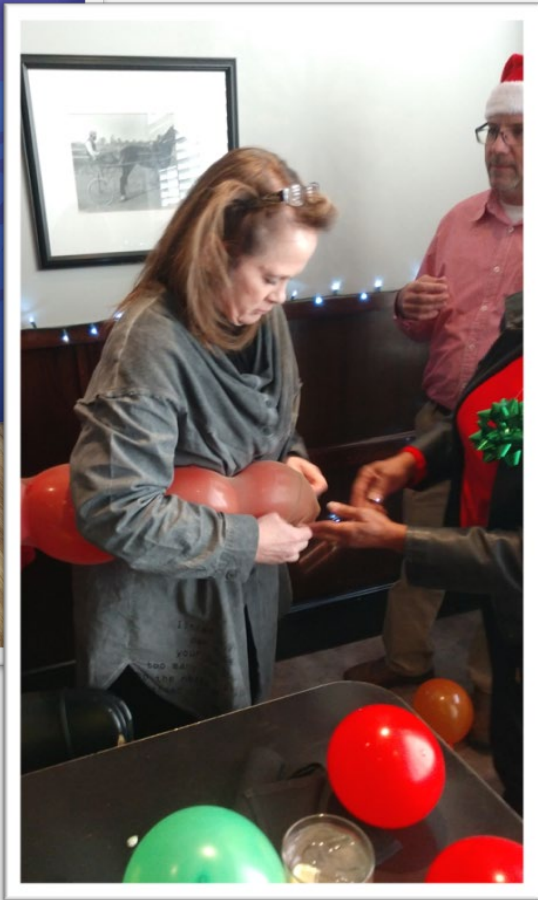


happy retirement

happy retirement



the best thing about
Memories
is making them



Welcome

We're excited to welcome
Ashley Lankford
our newest Financial Specialist
to the ALSDE CNP School Programs Team!





REVIEWS AND REMINDERS

SUZANNAH YODER

TABLE TALK

VOLUME 005 · ISSUE 006 · ALABAMA CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

REVIEWS AND REMINDERS

Please review and update the contact information in the LINQ State Sponsor Application. This is the information that we will be using to update our Constant Contact email database as well as the supplemental email list serv for those who are unable to receive Constant Contact emails. We will also be sharing the process by which to pull this data with other Child Nutrition Programs for future communication as well.



School Nutrition	
Alabama Child Nutrition Program	
Applications Claims Compliance Reports Security Search	
Applications >	
Item	Description
Sponsor Manager	SNP Sponsor's Profile
Potential Sponsor	Potential Sponsor Profile
Sponsor Application	Access to all program applications
Application Manager Dashboard	Application Manager Dashboard
Application Packet	Applications Form: Application Packet
Meal Pattern Compliance Summary	Number of Menu Items
Verification Report	Mandatory Annual
Verification Summary	Mandatory Annual
Second Review of Applications	FNS-874 report form
Food Safety Inspections	Number of Food Safety Inspections
Food Safety Inspections Summary	Number of Food Safety Inspections

Action	Attention	Form Name
View Revise	✓	Sponsor Application
View Admin Revise	✓	Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Schedule
Details	✓	Meal Pattern Compliance Dashboard
Details	✓	Checklist Summary (6)
Details		Application Packet Notes
View		Application Packet Notes for Sponsor
Details		Attachment List
Details		NDL Application Packet Dashboard (13)

Superintendent/Sponsoring Official			
3. Name: ✓	Salutation	First Name	Last Name
4. Email Address: ✖	Dr.	Corey	Jones
5. Phone:	(334) 875-3440	Ext:	
Child Nutrition Director			
16. Name: ✓	Salutation	First Name	Last Name
17. Email Address: ✖	Dr.	Latonia	Thrash
18. Phone:	(334) 872-6070	Ext:	
Menu Planner			
	Salutation	First Name	Last Name
Claim Preparer			
	Salutation	First Name	Last Name
Local Wellness Policy Compliance Contact			
	Salutation	First Name	Last Name
Finance Officer Contact			
36. Name: ✓	Salutation	First Name	Last Name
37. Email Address: ✖	Mr.	Brent	Mims
38. Phone:	(334) 872-6070	Ext:	

Site Applications	Approved	Pending	Return for Correction	Denied	Withdrawn/Closed	Error	Total Applications
School Nutrition Program	7	0	0	0	0	0	7
Seamless Summer Option	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

< Back **Submit for Approval** Approve Return Deny Status Reset

REVIEWS AND REMINDERS

The current **Non-Discrimination Statement** required for Child Nutrition Programs can be found at the Alabama Achieves site:

<https://www.alabamaachieves.org/cnp/usda-nonds/> or on the LINQ State site login page:
<https://alsde.cnpus.com/prod/Splash.aspx>

If you are in need of translation services as families begin to fill out applications, please be aware of the following resources:

1. The [I Speak](#) document can identify the family's spoken language.
2. ALSDE sponsored online interpretation services can have someone walk the family through the application.

Please reach out to your area specialist with any questions.

The image shows two overlapping forms. The top form is the 'Alabama Child Nutrition Programs' Non-Discrimination Statement, which includes a 'Returning Users: Log On' section with fields for 'User ID' and 'Password', and a 'Log On' button. Below this is a 'Links' section with 'Training Management' and 'Interested in Applying?'. The bottom form is the 'I Speak Statements' form, which is a checklist of languages. It includes a header with the USDA logo and the text 'I Speak Statements'. The list of languages is organized into two columns, with each language entry preceded by a checkbox. The languages listed include: Albanian, Amharic, Arabic, Armenian, Bengali, Bosnian, Burmese, Chinese Simplified, Chinese Traditional, Croatian, Farsi, French, French Creole, Greek, Gujarati, Haitian Creole, Hindi, Hmong, Igbo, Italian, Japanese, Jamaican Creole, Karen, Khmer, Korean, Kurdish, Lao, Mien, Nepali, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Samoan, Serbian, Somali, Spanish, Sudanese, Tagalog, Thai, Tigrinya, Ukrainian, Urdu, Vietnamese, Yiddish, and Yoruba. At the bottom of the form, it states 'USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.'

REVIEWS AND REMINDERS

Deadline is
6/30/26

Time to submit SY 2025-2026 Health Inspection information!

- Information emailed to all sponsors 3/25/26
- All sponsors must have at least two inspections per year. If you do not have at least two, you need to show documentation that health inspections were requested to your local health department

Applications Claims Compliance Reports Security Search	
Applications >	
Item	Description
Sponsor Manager	SNP Sponsor's Profile, Site and Hold Inform
Potential Sponsor	Potential Sponsor
Sponsor Application	Access to all program applications
Application Manager Dashboard	Application Management Tool
Application Packet	Applications Forms (Sponsor and Site)
Meal Pattern Compliance Summary	Number of Menu Pattern Certifications b
Verification Report	Mandatory Annual Verification Report
Verification Summary	Mandatory Annual Verification Report (F
Second Review of Applications	FNS-874 report for Sponsors selected to
Food Safety Inspections	Number of Food Safety Inspections by S
Food Safety Inspections Summary	Number of Food Safety Inspections by S

Applications > Food Safety Inspections >

Food Safety Insp

132-0000 Status: Active
Enterprise City Board of Education
DBA:
220 Hutchinson Street
Enterprise, AL 36330-1934
County: Coffee
FEIN: 63-6000875

Action	School Year
Modify	2025 - 2026

Instructions

Food Safety Inspections for School Year (SY) 2025 - 2026

Indicate the number of Food Safety Inspections conducted at each listed site between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026. If you did not select "Two" or "Three or more" in Item 1a, you MUST also indicate WHY you did not meet the regulation by selecting one of the options in Item 1b. If you select "Other", enter the reason in the space provided.

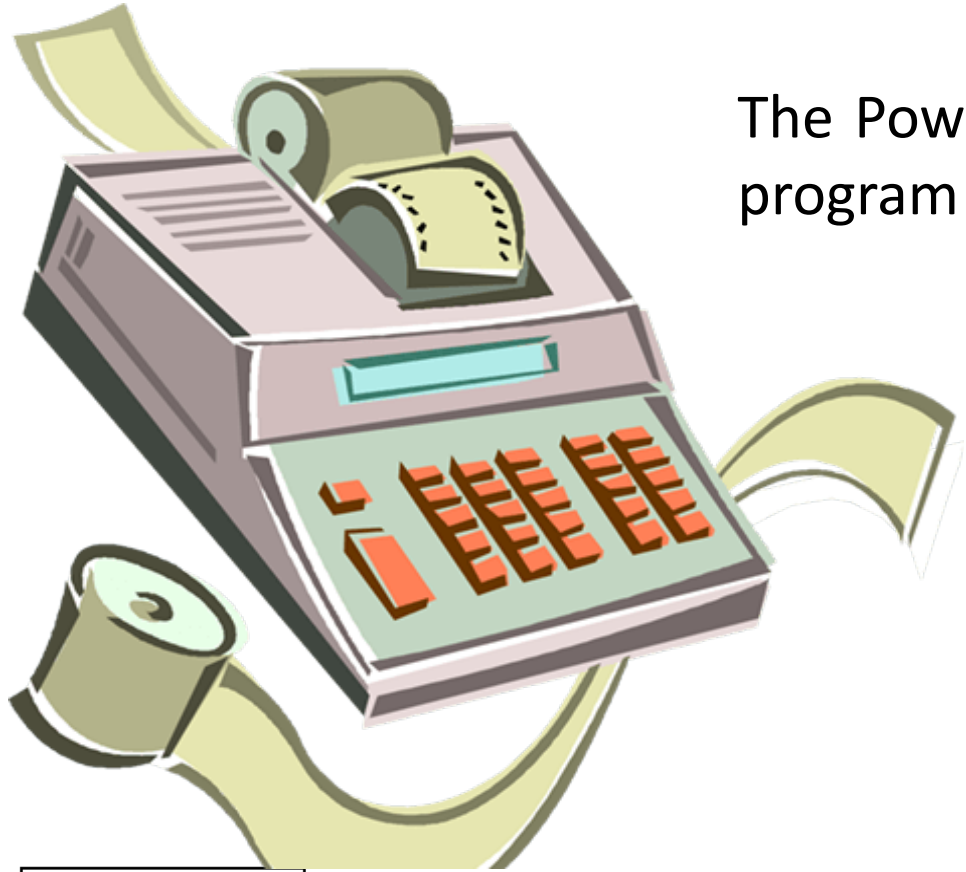
Site ID	Site Name and Address	1. Safety Inspections performed in 2025 - 2026. For each site indicating either "Zero" or "One", select the reason in 1b.	
		1a. Food Safety Inspections	1b. Reason for fewer than two inspections conducted (Select the most predominant reason).
1320045	Brookwood Elementary School 6500 Boll Weevil Circle Enterprise AL, 36330-9238	Two	
1320030	Coppinville Junior High School 4641 Boll Weevil Circle Enterprise AL, 36330-0000	One	Scheduling - Inspector Not Available
1320040	Dauphin Junior High School 1271 Dauphin Street Extension Enterprise AL, 36330-1269	None	Other
1320050	Enterprise High School		

TABLE TALK

VOLUME 005 · ISSUE 006 · ALABAMA CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

REVIEWS AND REMINDERS

CNP Bookkeeper Training Monday, March 30th



The PowerPoint slides for this training will be emailed to all program directors on Friday morning, March 27th.

If you have any concerns about the content after reviewing the presentations, please email Julie Autrey, SNP Administrator, prior to noon on Friday.

Topics that will be covered include plate cost calculations, coding, budgeting, procurement, inventory, CEP groupings, and Annual Reports.

REVIEWS AND REMINDERS

Important

3	TOTAL		
4	TOTAL		
5	TOTAL		208881.24
6	NET		-548,065.02
7	TOTAL		777922.09
Account Code			
7	A. Inventory-Material & Supplies	0141	\$ 0
7	B. Inventory-Food	0143	62495.41
8	TOTAL ASSETS (Less Inventory)		715,426.68
9	TOTAL LIABILITIES		487509.09
10	NET CASH RESOURCES @ 9/30/2025		227,917.59
11	OPERATING MONTHS		10
(Enter only the number of months meals are served)			
12	AVERAGE MONTHLY EXPENDITURES		220,888.12
13	THREE (3) MONTHS EXPENSES		662,664.36
14	OPERATING BALANCE (MONTHS)		1.03 Over 3 months No
(If the Operating Balance is greater than 3 months the SFA must submit a corrective action plan for ALSDE to review and approve along with this report)			
REVENUE / EXPENDITURE RATIOS:			
15	EXPENDITURES AS % OF TOTAL REVENUE		133.00
16	TOTAL FOOD EXPENDITURES		755542.55
17	SWP REBATES		0
18	OTHER REBATES (Systems that are not on SWP)		11046.33
19	NET FOOD EXPENDITURES		744,496.22
20	FOOD AS % OF TOTAL REVENUE		44.83
21	TOTAL LABOR EXPENDITURES		850457.04
22	LABOR AS % OF TOTAL REVENUE		51.21
PRODUCTIVITY			
23	TOTAL BREAKFAST SERVED		81416
(Enter all breakfast meals claimed from October 1 through September 30, including Regular, Severe Need, and Seamless Summer Option Breakfast meals)			
24	TOTAL LUNCH SERVED		250123
(Enter all Lunch meals claimed from October 1 through September 30, including Regular, 2 cent Differential, and Seamless Summer Option Lunch meals)			
25	TOTAL SNACK SERVED		0
(Enter all Lunch meals claimed from October 1 through September 30, including Area Eligible, Non-Area Eligible, and Seamless Summer Option Area Eligible Snack meals)			
26	TOTAL NON-PROGRAM FOOD REVENUES		248764.54
(Enter the Total Non-Program Food Revenues: The total revenue from non-program food sales (e.g., LEA revenue function codes: 6730 "Daily Sales-A la Carte", 6740 "Daily Sales-Other", 6750 "Special Functions", 6760 "SFP-Vending", 6765 "CACFP-Vending", and 6790 "Other Food Service Income," for the fiscal year.)			
27	BREAKFAST MEAL EQUIVALENT		54,548.72
28	LUNCH MEAL EQUIVALENT		250,123.00
29	SNACK MEAL EQUIVALENT		0.00
30	NON-PROGRAM FOOD SALES MEAL EQUIVALENT		\$2,592.93

SFAs who are currently in withholding due to an incomplete or unapproved CNP Annual Financial Report need to send their reports in as soon as possible.

January 15 was the original due date.

REVIEWS AND REMINDERS

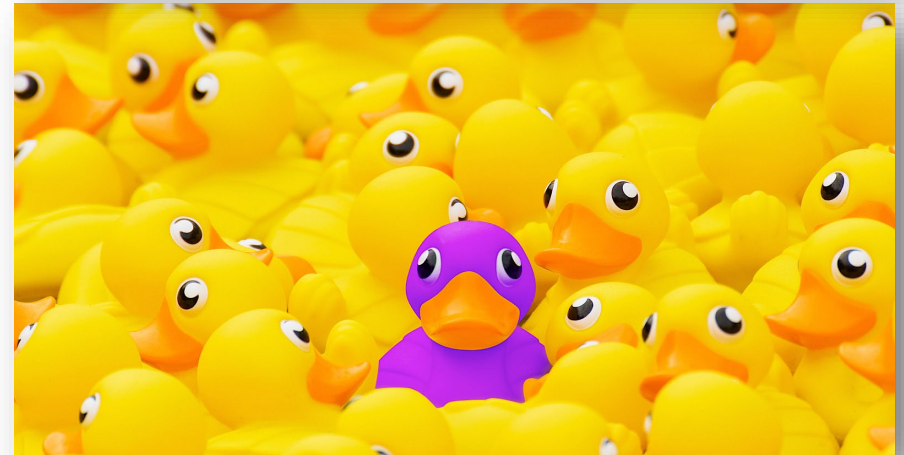
If you have attended the Summer Nutrition Program Trainings but feel like your meal service program and student needs do not fit well into SSO or SFSP, please reach out to our program staff.

NSLP is able to offer summer feeding, unique from SSO, during summer school operation.

Please reference the comparison chart provided by USDA and send any questions to your area specialist.

**Comparison of Programs
SFSP/NSLP/Seamless Option**

[Comparison of Summer Programs \(NSLP/SSO/SFSP\) | Food and Nutrition Service](#)





MONTHLY MEMOS

CHAD LANGSTON

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VOLUME 005 · ISSUE 006 · ALABAMA CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

MONTHLY MEMOS

- Buy American Resources 1/30/26
- 2026 National School Breakfast Week Survey – 1/30/26
- Reminders & Options for Serving Meals During Unexpected School Closures 1/30/26
- ISP Reminder - 2/2/26 and 2/9/26 (private schools only)
- SP02 2026 – Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2025-2030 – Eat Real Food 2/12/26
- SP03 2026 - Incorporating Local Beef into Child Nutrition Program Meals – 2/20/26
- Act 2025-268: Second Allocation Supplemental Funding for the School Breakfast Program – 3/3/26
- ISP Report Reminder – 3/3/26
- March Culinary Training Sessions at ICN! - March 3, 2026
- Response Requested: Weather Impact Survey – 3/10/26

MONTHLY MEMOS

- Alabama School Breakfast Grant Application – 3/10/26
- Update: Revised Breakfast Grant Application Scoring Rubric – 3/17/26
- Weather Impact Survey Now Available in LINQ State App – 3/17/26
- Celebrate CACFP Week with Team Nutrition – 3/18/26
- Farm to School and Scratch Cooking Workshop – 3/18/26
- Reminder: Alabama School Breakfast Grant & Extended Deadline – 3/24/26
- SP 04-2026 – CEP: Election Deadline and Annual Notification and Publication Requirements - 3/24/26
- Help Us Support You: Update Your Emergency Contact Details – 3/25/26
- SP 05-2026 – 2026 Appropriations Act: Effect on CNP - 3/25/26



TOP TOPICS

LORIA HUNTER

SUN Programs Administrator

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VOLUME 005 · ISSUE 006 · ALABAMA CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

SFSP APPLICATION

The LINQ SFSP Application will not be available April 1st.

We will contact you via email when the application is available.



SSO APPLICATION

The LINQ SSO Application is in the testing stage right now. Updates and improvements are being made.

If sponsors open an SSO Site Application now, they will need to go in and "Modify" them to pull in the new updates.



Action	Attention	Form Name
View Revise	✓	Sponsor Application
View Admin Revise	✓	Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Schedule
Details	✓	Meal Pattern Compliance Dashboard
Details	✓	Checklist Summary (7)
Details		Application Packet Notes
View		Application Packet Notes for Sponsor
Details		Attachment List
Details		NDL Application Packet Dashboard (12)

Site Applications	Approved	Pending	Return for Correction	Denied	V
School Nutrition Program	6	0	0	0	
Seamless Summer Option	0	2	0	0	

[< Back](#) [Submit for Approval](#) [Approve](#) [Return](#) [Deny](#)

Help SUN Bucks Reach the Right Families!



- Through the Alabama SUN Bucks program, eligible school-age children will receive a one-time grocery benefit this summer. Families will receive a SUN Bucks card with the funds pre-loaded and ready to use for groceries.
- These cards will be mailed to the **address on file with the student's school**. Please encourage families who have had a change of address to contact their student's school to update the information in PowerSchool.

Share with Your Network

- As a leader in student nutrition and family support, you play an important role in connecting families to essential resources. Sharing this reminder through your district channels, newsletters, and parent communications can help ensure this benefit reaches the right homes.



TOP TOPICS

SUZANNAH YODER

TABLE TALK

VOLUME 005 · ISSUE 006 · ALABAMA CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

COMMON COMPLIANCE CONCERNS

Afterschool Snack Program [7 CFR 210.10\(o\)](#)



Things to Check for at your Snack Programs:

1. Do the planned menus, including items and serving sizes, match the **served menus**? Do the menus meet the updated snack service meal pattern [7 CFR 210.10\(o\)\(2\)\(ii\)](#)? Double Check: Fruit/Vegetable Serving Size, Grain-based desserts, and Fruit : Juice Ratio ≤50%
2. Are snacks are served as a **unitized meal**? OVS is not allowable at snack service. Utilizing a share table is highly recommended, with training on proper food safety practices.
3. Record Keeping
 - Daily snack **production records** must be maintained, supporting the number of snacks claimed for reimbursement.
 - Ensure an accurate **counting and claiming** system is in place, allowing one snack per child who chooses to participate. Attendance rosters are not an acceptable counting and claiming system.
 - Ensure the snack **on-site reviews** are conducted once in the first four weeks of operation and again before the afterschool enrichment program ends at the close of the school year.

VIRTUAL DAY MEAL SERVICE



USDA has established that meals must be served during the school day in the designated meal service location (7 CFR § 210.10). There are no current waivers for flexibility with congregate meal service, meal service times, OVS, parent/guardian pick, or bulk meal service on **planned virtual calendar days**.

Several Alabama school systems have implemented programs or activities on **planned virtual** days that have students on-campus, including school sponsored field trips, voluntary tutoring programs, or parent/student/teacher conferences.

Calculating your program's daily breakfast and lunch revenue can provide valuable insight for your district's calendar planning team. Sharing these figures helps highlight the program revenue that is lost on scheduled virtual days.

SNA'S ADVOCACY EFFORTS



SNA is hosting a Congressional briefing on Tuesday, March 31. Congressional staff will hear directly from USDA and school nutrition leaders about how today's school meals operate and serve students across the nation.

The briefing will highlight the gap between the cost to produce a nutritionally complete school meal and current federal reimbursement rates, and what that means for students who rely on these meals every school day.

SNA President and Enterprise City Schools CNP Director **Stephanie Dillard** will be a featured speaker.



Check out this Civil Eats story featuring SNA President-Elect, **Ashley Powell**, and SNA Public Policy & Legislation Committee member, Kaitlin Tauriainen, as they discuss the feasibility and reality of new regulations being implemented in schools.

[School Nutrition Experts Wary as Government Shifts Policies | Civil Eats](#)



TOP TOPICS

JUSTIN HOPE

TABLE TALK

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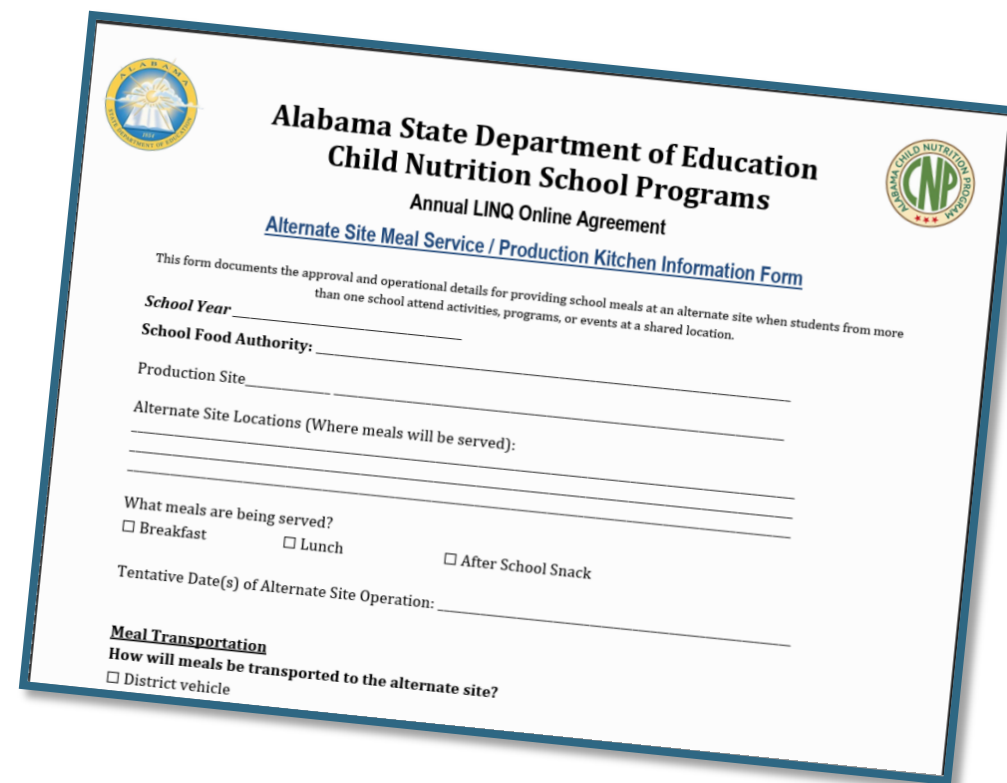
OFF SITE MEAL GUIDANCE

Complete this form for all of the following

- Production kitchens serving sites without cost centers
- Districts serving meals at alternate sites
(e.g., Career Tech centers or alternative schools)
- Districts Transporting Meals
- Districts serving meals at sites without student enrollment

Form is in the download forms section of LINQ.

Form will be uploaded to the Attachment List section of your online agreement.

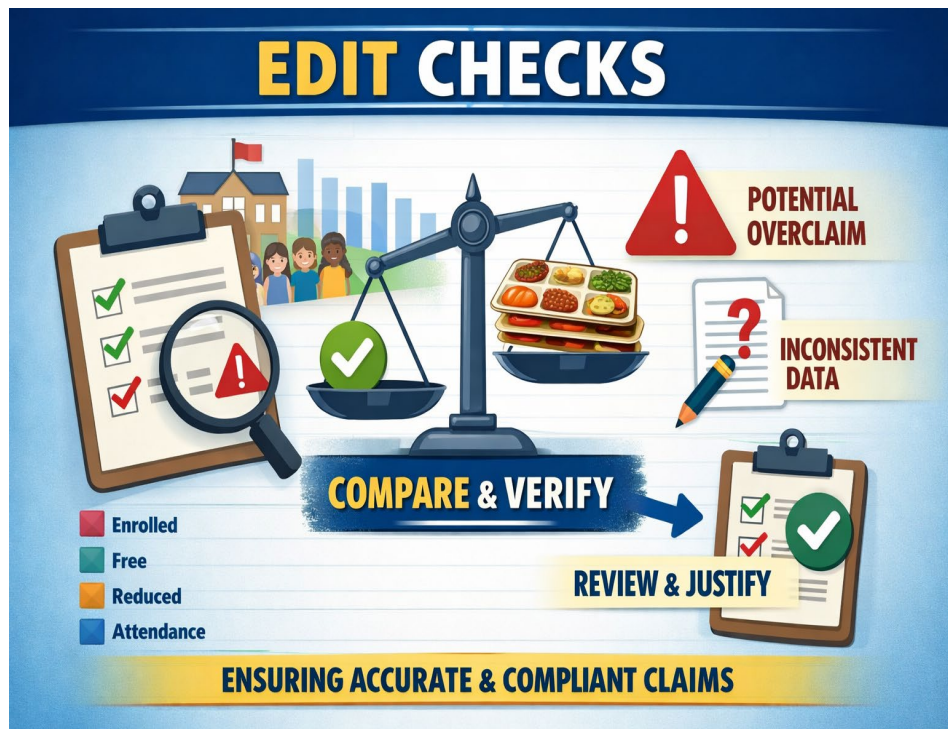


The form is titled "Alabama State Department of Education Child Nutrition School Programs Annual LINQ Online Agreement Alternate Site Meal Service / Production Kitchen Information Form". It includes the Alabama State Department of Education logo and the Alabama Child Nutrition Program logo. The form contains the following sections:

- School Year:** _____
- School Food Authority:** _____
- Production Site:** _____
- Alternate Site Locations (Where meals will be served):** _____
- What meals are being served?**
 - ☐ Breakfast
 - ☐ Lunch
 - ☐ After School Snack
- Tentative Date(s) of Alternate Site Operation:** _____
- Meal Transportation**
 - How will meals be transported to the alternate site?**
 - ☐ District vehicle

Details	Checklist Summary (9)
Details	Application Packet Notes
View	Application Packet Notes for Sponsor
Details	Attachment List
Details	NDL Application Packet Dashboard (6) Complete

UNDERSTANDING EDIT CHECKS



(Definitions from 2 of the most used POS systems in Alabama)

- 1) system-generated validation procedures that compare the number of reimbursable meals claimed or recorded for each site and day against established thresholds based on student enrollment, eligibility, and attendance data.
- 2) automated system controls that evaluate meal count data by comparing the number of reimbursable meals claimed or recorded for each site and day against allowable limits derived from student enrollment, eligibility categories, and attendance-adjusted factors.

Edits Checks ----- Meal Counts ----- Meal Claims

Production Records ----- End of Day Reports ----- Inventory

UNDERSTANDING EDIT CHECKS

Example Scenario

ABC Elementary School

Enrollment: 400 Students

Attendance Factor: 90%

Allowable Meals: 360

DEF Alternative School

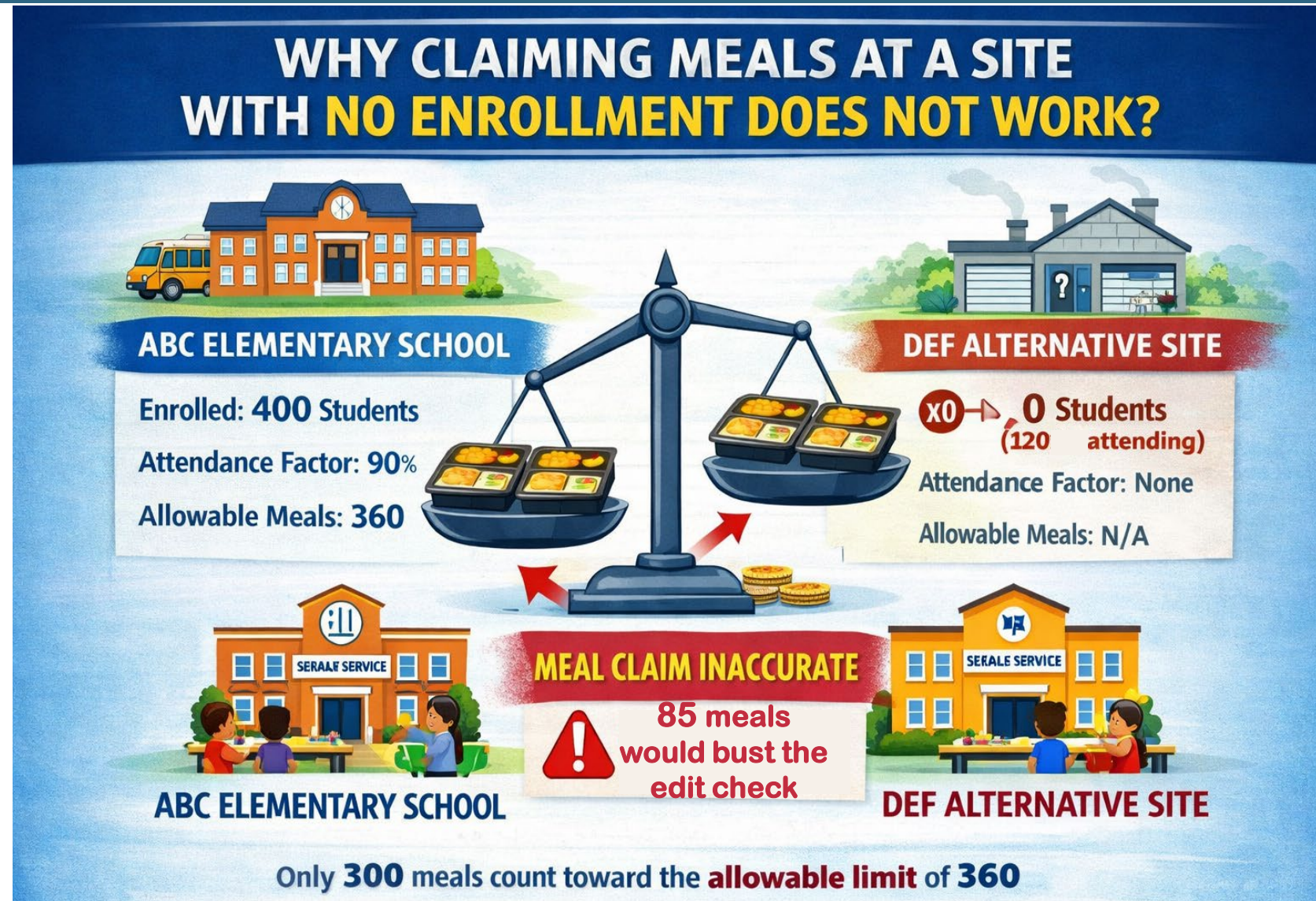
Enrollment: 0 Students

(120 Students Attending)

Meals Served at Lunch Today

ABC Elementary 300 Meals

DEF Alternate Site 85 Meals





TOP TOPICS

DEVIN WILLIAMSON

TABLE TALK

VOLUME 005 · ISSUE 006 · ALABAMA CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

NEW SPONSORS

SFA New Sponsor Process

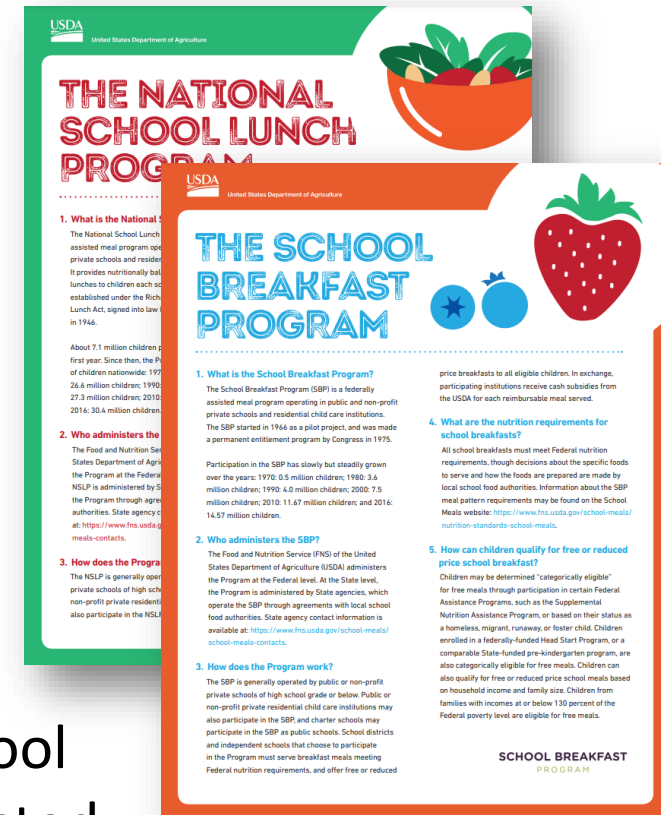
If a new school contacts you about how they can become a sponsor of National School Lunch or Breakfast Program, please have them reach out to us! (334) 694-4657

New Sponsor Lead Contacts:

- North Alabama: Devin Williamson
- South Alabama: Susanne Reeves

New Sponsor Trainings are held each **February** and attending that training is **required** before a school site can become a new sponsor.

If your SFA is contacted about vending/catering meals to a new school that may not have a kitchen, be sure the new school has first contacted ALSDE to ensure all proper steps in new sponsorship have been accounted for.



26-27 Program Year Opening in LINQ

- The 26-27 Program Year will become available on April 1, 2026
- Next year's application is not available yet, an announcement will be sent about that
- **To submit claims or application revisions for the 25-26 Program year, you will need to change the program year back to 25-26.**
- FFVP Applications will be in the 26-27 Program Year
- The newest program year is always the default when you login.

School Nutrition Programs
Alabama Child Nutrition Programs
BREAK for a PLATE ALABAMA

Applications | Claims | Compliance | Reports | Security | Search | Programs | Year | Help | Log Out

2026 - 2027 < Selected

2025 - 2026

2024 - 2025

2023 - 2024

2022 - 2023

**Application Revisions
& Claims**

FFVP Applications

FFVP APPLICATION OPENING NEXT WEEK!

LOOK FOR EMAILS WITH MORE INFO & WEBINAR DETAILS COMING SOON!

NEW THIS YEAR!

APPLY THROUGH THE

LINQ

Online Application

FRESH
● ● ● ●
FRUIT &
VEGETABLE
● ● ● ●
PROGRAM



**ALL FFVP APPLICATIONS & CERTIFICATIONS OF SUPPORT
DUE BY MAY 15TH, 2026!**

Alabama Farm to School & Scratch Cooking Workshop

May 7-8, 2026 Jones Valley Teaching Farm

Hosted by the ALSDE

Sessions Include:

- Hands-on culinary session for biscuits and chicken pot pie taught by Chef Jason Haywood
- Utilizing herbs in school meals by Jones Valley
- Field Trip to Boozer Farms
- Goal Setting

This workshop is FULL!

Room blocks are not available, however we will be sending a list of recommended hotels.

2026 Alabama Farm to School & Scratch Cooking Workshop

WORKSHOP AGENDA

THURSDAY | MAY 7, 2026

7:45 – 8:00 AM
Check-In
8:00 – 8:30 AM

Welcome & Agenda Overview
Jones Valley Teaching Farm

SESSION 1

8:30 – 11:30 AM
Culinary Workshop & Herb Sessions

FIELD TRIP – ROUND 1

Boozer Farms

8:30 – 8:45 AM | Load Bus
8:45 – 9:45 AM | Travel
9:45 – 11:00 AM | Farm Tour
11:00 – 12:00 PM | Travel Back

12:00 – 1:00 PM
Lunch

SESSION 2

1:00 – 4:00 PM
Culinary Workshop & Hands-on Sessions

FIELD TRIP – ROUND 2

Boozer Farms

12:30 – 12:45 PM | Load Bus
12:45 – 1:45 PM | Travel
1:45 – 3:00 PM | Farm Tour
3:00 – 4:00 PM | Travel Back

4:00 – 4:30 PM
Session Debrief & Reflections

FRIDAY | MAY 8, 2026

7:45 – 8:00 AM
Check-In / Load Bus

SESSION 3

8:00 – 11:00 AM
Culinary Workshop & Final Sessions

FIELD TRIP – ROUND 3 Boozer Farms

7:30 – 7:45 AM | Load Bus
7:45 – 8:45 AM | Travel
8:45 – 10:00 AM | Farm Tour
10:00 – 11:00 AM | Travel Back

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Goal Setting Session
& Workshop Wrap-Up

Thank you for participating in the
Alabama Farm to School &
Scratch Cooking Workshop.



Summer Culinary Trainings

Summer Culinary Trainings Hosted by the
ALSDE, taught by the Chef Ann Foundation

One-Day Hands-on Culinary Trainings from
8:30-3:00

Identical presentation content from summer
2025, new recipes.

Participants will prepare:

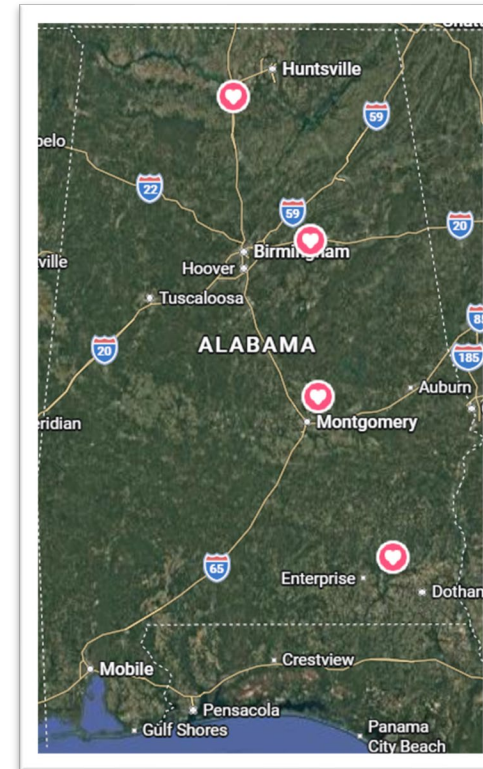
- 4 Breakfast Recipes
- 4 Lunch Recipes
- Spice Blends

A more formal announcement will follow, sign-
up on this [Google Spreadsheet](#).

By registering, schools are attesting they will
incorporate two recipes from the training into
their menu.

Dates & Locations:

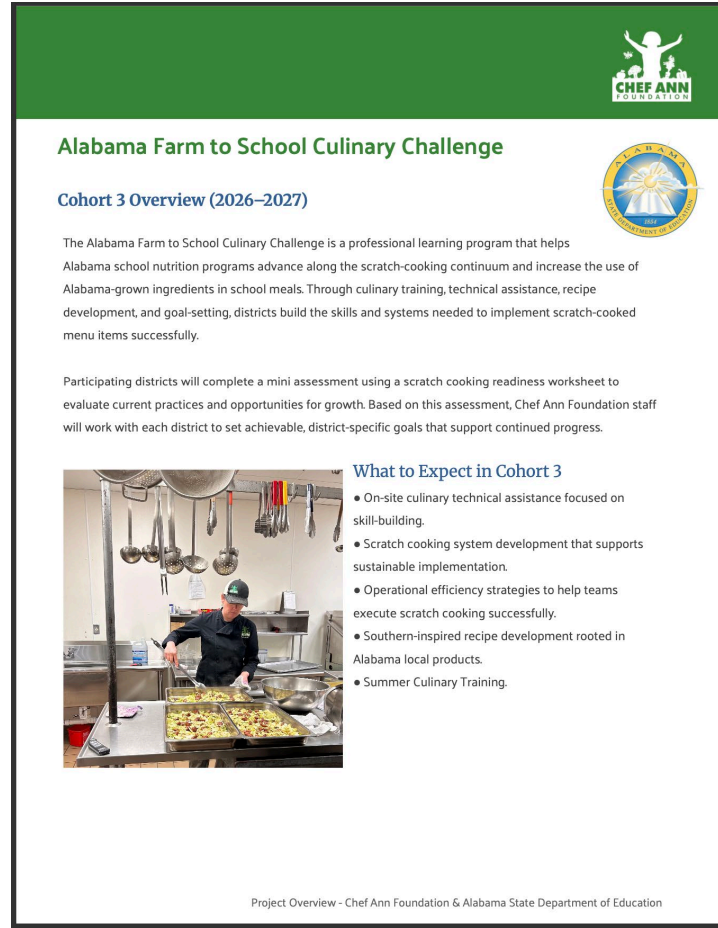
- June 9-12, 2026 Carroll High School Ozark
- June 16-18, 2026 Priceville High School Decatur
- June 23-26, 2026 Stanhope Elmore High School Wetumpka
- July 21-24, 2026 Iola Roberts Elementary Pell City



ALSDE CULINARY CHALLENGE NEW COHORT

Cohort 3 Overview (2026-2027)

- Past participants are welcome to apply
- 8 districts will be selected
- The Chef Ann Foundation will complete a scratch cooking mini-assessment initially and will work with each district to set achievable, district-specific goals
- Districts will test one recipe per month (September-May) with students that have been made specifically for AL students
- Districts with the highest percentage of their schools participating will be prioritized
- Summer Culinary Trainings
- Subgrant funds may or may not be available
- Districts will be expected to incorporate 3 recipes in SY 27-28



The flyer is titled "Alabama Farm to School Culinary Challenge" and "Cohort 3 Overview (2026-2027)". It features the Chef Ann Foundation logo at the top right and the Alabama Department of Education logo on the right. The text describes the program as a professional learning program that helps Alabama school nutrition programs advance along the scratch-cooking continuum and increase the use of Alabama-grown ingredients in school meals. It mentions that through culinary training, technical assistance, recipe development, and goal-setting, districts build the skills and systems needed to implement scratch-cooked menu items successfully. A photo shows a chef in a kitchen preparing food. The flyer also lists "What to Expect in Cohort 3" with bullet points: On-site culinary technical assistance focused on skill-building, Scratch cooking system development that supports sustainable implementation, Operational efficiency strategies to help teams execute scratch cooking successfully, Southern-inspired recipe development rooted in Alabama local products, and Summer Culinary Training. At the bottom, it says "Project Overview - Chef Ann Foundation & Alabama State Department of Education".

Alabama Farm to School Culinary Challenge

Cohort 3 Overview (2026-2027)

The Alabama Farm to School Culinary Challenge is a professional learning program that helps Alabama school nutrition programs advance along the scratch-cooking continuum and increase the use of Alabama-grown ingredients in school meals. Through culinary training, technical assistance, recipe development, and goal-setting, districts build the skills and systems needed to implement scratch-cooked menu items successfully.

Participating districts will complete a mini assessment using a scratch cooking readiness worksheet to evaluate current practices and opportunities for growth. Based on this assessment, Chef Ann Foundation staff will work with each district to set achievable, district-specific goals that support continued progress.

What to Expect in Cohort 3

- On-site culinary technical assistance focused on skill-building.
- Scratch cooking system development that supports sustainable implementation.
- Operational efficiency strategies to help teams execute scratch cooking successfully.
- Southern-inspired recipe development rooted in Alabama local products.
- Summer Culinary Training.

Project Overview - Chef Ann Foundation & Alabama State Department of Education

Why apply?

- Receive technical assistance to move towards more scratch cooking from the Chef Ann Foundation
- Receive priority for summer culinary trainings & special workshops
- Practice taste testing with students
- Test recipes for Alabama schools!

The application will be released in the next 1-2 weeks.

NEW RECIPES ADDED IN LINQ

Homemade Condiments & Dressings

- Ranch
- Italian Dressing
- Honey Mustard
- Chocolate Hummus
- Hummus
- Mayonnaise



Lee County Recipes

- Oven Fried Chicken
- Best Breakfast Casserole
- Breakfast Burrito
- Sloppy Joe Sandwich



Search: AL-R- in LINQ School Nutrition under Item Management for recipes

TRAINING TIDBITS

TRAINING TIDBITS

ROBBIE SCOTT

TABLE
TALK

VOLUME 005 · ISSUE 006 · ALABAMA CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

TRAINING TIDBITS

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION	AREA
BOOKKEEPER TRAINING	MARCH 30, 2026	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	Montgomery, AL
NEW MANAGERS' TRAINING	JULY 7 – 8, 2026	Shelby County Instructional Services Center	Alabaster, Alabama
ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW TRAINING	TBD – AUGUST	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	Montgomery, AL
NEW DIRECTORS' TRAINING	TBD – AUGUST	TBD	Montgomery, AL
2026 FALL CONFERENCE	NOVEMBER 17 – 20, 2026	The Grand Hotel and Conference Center	Point Clear, AL

TRAINING TIDBITS

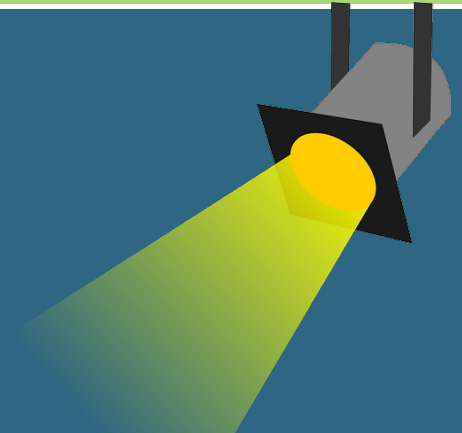


Annual Agreement Spring Area Trainings

Area	Date	Location	Capacity
Area 7	Thursday, May 14, 2026	TBD	TBD
Area 6	Friday, May 15, 2026	TBD	TBD
Area 1	Wednesday, May 20, 2026	ALSDE Birmingham Office	60
Area 2	Thursday, May 21, 2026	ALSDE Birmingham Office	60
Area 3	Friday, May 22, 2026	ALSDE Birmingham Office	60
Area 5	Tuesday, May 26, 2026	ALSDE Montgomery Office	30
Area 4	Wednesday, May 27, 2026	ALSDE Montgomery Office	30

All meeting times will be from 8:30-2:30.

When Area 6 and 7 locations have been confirmed, we will send out a registration form via Constant Contact and the alternate email List Serv.

A graphic of a stage spotlight mounted on a track, casting a beam of light. The beam is a gradient from yellow at the source to green at the edge.

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

RACHEL FOWLER

TABLE TALK

VOLUME 005 · ISSUE 006 · ALABAMA CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

Melinda Bonner

Hoover City Schools

Number of Sites: 16
Number of Employees: 110
of years in Child Nutrition: 22

Favorite Part of the Job: Providing an exciting atmosphere in the Cafeteria that supplies students with nutritious meals. I love to hear students get excited about certain menu items being served, but the nutritional promotions are some of the best times for the students and the staff. We utilize the themed SNA promotions and other featured holidays along with national food/beverage celebrations. It keeps students and all employees of Hoover interested in what is being served and excited to participate in our program.

Least Favorite Part: The constant federal regulation changes and expectations that take my focus away from the primary goal – to develop skilled employees and feed children.

Most Meaningful Event while on the Job: The most meaningful event would have to be how the shutdown of schools in 2020 created a heightened awareness of how important the Child Nutrition Program is to students. It became a pivotal relationship booster between school board members, administration, the community and the Child Nutrition program.

Best Advice for New CNP Directors: Give it at least 3 years. So much of the Child Nutrition Program is cyclic, but it takes time to develop a comprehensive and practical understanding of the program.



Thank you for attending!

Be sure to document your attendance
by completing the survey.

Scan the QR code

<https://forms.office.com/r/yYm97WzfrJ?origin=IprLink>





334.694.4657

CNPNSLP@alsde.edu



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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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