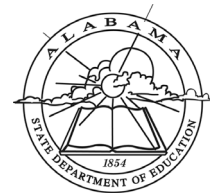




STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

Alabama
State Board
of Education

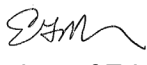
August 27, 2026

Governor Kay Ivey
President

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents

Jackie Zeigler
District I

FROM: Eric G. Mackey 
State Superintendent of Education

Tracie West
District II

RE: Fiscal Year 2026 Alabama School Breakfast Funding Allocation

Kelly Mooney
District III
Vice President

Under Act 2026-599, supplemental funding for school breakfast programs has once again been approved. A total of **\$7.3 million** in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 funds will be distributed to support schools participating in the School Breakfast Program that provide breakfast at no cost to all students through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) or Universal Breakfast programs.

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV

This memorandum serves as notification that the initial allocation of funds is being distributed to schools on the attached list that do not qualify for the federal free reimbursement rate for all meals served. These funds will help support schools that offer breakfast at no charge to all students through the CEP or Universal Breakfast programs but have not achieved a reimbursement level equivalent to 100 percent free-rate reimbursement.

Tonya S. Chestnut, Ed.D.
District V

The initial allocation, totaling **\$5,922,183.83**, is based on Program Year 2026 breakfast reimbursement data from October 2025 through May 2026 and is designed to offset the gap between the federal reimbursement received for reduced-price and paid breakfasts and the higher reimbursement rate provided for free breakfasts.

Marie Manning
District VI

The remaining **\$1,377,816.17** will be awarded through a competitive grant process to support schools that are not eligible for the initial allocation. Grant funds may be used to strengthen and expand school breakfast programs in accordance with the approved purposes outlined in this memorandum.

Allen Long, M.D.
District VII
President Pro Tem

Purpose of the Funding

Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.
District VIII

- Offset the financial burden on schools serving breakfast to all students, regardless of income eligibility.
- Ensure students across Alabama have access to nutritious morning meals at no cost.
- Promote student well-being through improved nutritional support.
- Promoting Participation: Schools receiving this funding are encouraged to promote their breakfast programs through the state's "**Strong Start and Strong Finish with Alabama's School Breakfast**" campaign. A social media graphic is available at [Break for a Plate Alabama](#) to assist schools in increasing awareness and participation in their breakfast programs.

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
Secretary and
Executive Officer

Allocation and Use of Funds

- Funds should be applied to cover the cost of meals that would otherwise be paid for by students not eligible for free or reduced meals.
- Funds should be applied to cover the cost of equipment and supplies for alternate breakfast models.
- Funds should be used to serve Alabama grown Farm to School foods in schools.
- Funds may be used to support the hiring of additional staff needed to prepare and serve scratch-cooked breakfast meals.

Disbursement of Funds

The first allocation of funds will be automatically disbursed with this memorandum to the eligible School Food Authorities (SFAs) and should be recorded using revenue code 2901 and fund source code 5101. SFAs are responsible for maintaining appropriate documentation to support the use of funds and demonstrating that expenditure aligns with allowable program purposes.

Breakfast Grant Application for SFAs not included in the Allocation

The final allocation of funds will be awarded in the form of grants to support the approved purposes outlined above and should also be recorded using revenue code 2901 and fund source code 5101.

A grant application is included with this memorandum for SFAs that are not included in the FY 2026 funding allocation described above. To be eligible for consideration, the completed grant application must be submitted to cnpnsfp@alsde.edu by the SFA no later than **5 p.m. on September 30, 2026**.

SFAs that receive grant funds are responsible for maintaining appropriate records and supporting documentation to verify that all funds were used in accordance with grant requirements and to support the operation and enhancement of school breakfast programs.

The grant application may be accessed at this link [Alabama School Breakfast Grant Application SY 2026-2027 - Break for a Plate Alabama](#).

If you have questions, please contact Julie Autrey, School Nutrition Programs Administrator, by email at cnpnsfp@alsde.edu or by telephone (334) 694-4657.

EGM/AL/JA

Attachment

cc: Private and Charter School Administrators
Child Nutrition Directors
Chief School Financial Officers
Arthur Watts, Jr., Deputy State Superintendent/Administration and Finance
Angelice Lowe, Director, Child Nutrition Programs
Julie Autrey, Administrator, School Nutrition Programs
Justin Todd, Director, SDE Accounting
Deondra Bell, Accounting Manager, SDE Accounting

FY26-3038