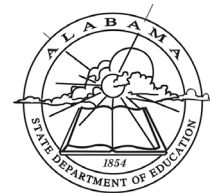




STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 3, 2025

CONTACT: Communications

334-694-4686

comm@alsde.edu

Alabama
State Board
of Education

Governor Kay Ivey
President

Jackie Zeigler
District I

Tracie West
District II

Kelly Mooney
District III
President Pro Tem

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV

Tonya S. Chestnut, Ed.D.
District V

Marie Manning
District VI
Vice President

Allen Long, M.D.
District VII

Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.
District VIII

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

APPROVED ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVE FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT FOR PROVIDING MEALS AND SNACKS

Montgomery, Ala. - The Alabama State Department of Education is seeking schools and fiscally responsible community organizations to serve as sponsors of the Summer Nutrition (SUN) Programs in 2026.

SUN meals sponsors help ensure children who have limited access to food at home get nutritious meals needed for optimal growth, development, and overall well-being when school is not in session.

Many children rely on the nutritious meals and snacks served during the school year through the National School Breakfast and National School Lunch Programs. Alabama's SUN Programs help fill in the gap by providing free meals and snacks to eligible children, ages 18 and younger who might otherwise go hungry during the summer months.

The Summer Food Service Program is administered by the Alabama Department of Education Child Nutrition Programs and federally funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Last summer, SFSP sponsors served over 2.5 million meals to hungry children across the state.

Organizations eligible to serve as sponsors are:

- public or private school food authorities,
- private non-profit organizations,
- government entities,
- faith-based organizations and
- camps

Eligibility requirements for a private nonprofit organization to become a sponsor include, but not limited to the following:

- 1) maintaining tax exempt status with the IRS
- 2) operating year-round service to the community in which summer meal sites will be located, and
- 3) providing documents to support the financial solvency of the organization.

Of particular need are organizations in rural areas where access to summer meal sites or transportation creates a deterrent to program participation. New federal regulations permit sponsors with a rural designation to apply for approval to provide multi-day meal kits to be taken away from the meal site for children to enjoy throughout the week.

—more—

SPONSORS AND THE SUMMER NUTRITION (SUN) PROGRAMS IN 2026

Returning sponsors and prospective new sponsors are required to attend annual training. Training sessions are scheduled throughout the state during the month of February 2026. Contact the Alabama State Department of Education, Child Nutrition Programs at 334-694-4660 or send an email message to sun@alsde.edu for more information.

Visit [Summer Food Service Program | Kids Eat Free - Break for a Plate Alabama](#) to register for training.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#) which can be obtained online from the USDA Website, 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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

###