



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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Alabama  
State Board  
of Education

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**INNOVATIVE ALABAMA FARM TO SCHOOL WORKSHOP BEING HELD  
THIS WEEK AT THE JONES VALLEY TEACHING FARM**

The Alabama State Department of Education Child Nutrition Program is announcing its first *Farm to School and Scratch Cooking Workshop*.

This exciting event is taking place this week, **May 7–8, 2026**, at the Jones Valley Teaching Farm in Birmingham, Alabama.

This two-day workshop aims to support our school districts’ innovative *Eat Real Food* and *Farm to School* initiatives, which fully align with new Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

The event will feature:

- Hands-on cooking lessons led by Jason Haywood of the Lee County School System.
- Dynamic sessions with the expert and highly respected Jones Valley Teaching Farm staff – discussions to focus on a variety of topics including incorporating fresh herbs into school lunch programs.
- An informative and exciting tour of Boozer Farms.
- ***Media members are invited to attend this special event.***

Participants will leave with practical skills and ideas to use in their local programs, including preparing and incorporating local Alabama products into school meals.

This training is made possible through the Farm to School Formula Grant initiative and will focus on further strengthening local school nutrition programs.

*A copy of the event’s official Media Invitation can be accessed and reviewed at:*

[Media Invitation](#)

If you have any questions or would like to attend this event on either day, please contact ALSDE Child Nutrition Programs Specialist Rachel Fowler at 205-915-4859 or [Rachel.fowler@alsde.edu](mailto:Rachel.fowler@alsde.edu).

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