



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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

August 18, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Eric G. Mackey *EGM*
State Superintendent of Education

RE: Pandemic Supply Chain Challenges in Local Child Nutrition Programs

The Alabama State Department of Education is aware of pandemic related supply chain challenges causing food and truck driver shortages nationwide. Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) throughout Alabama that utilize our Statewide Procurement Cooperative and other supplemental food distributors are experiencing labor shortages, delayed and/or cancelled food deliveries, unavailable distributor food items, and last-minute replacements at often higher than expected costs. The CNP staff have been instructed to utilize the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) meal pattern waivers and emergency procurement methods to ensure students in Alabama are being served reimbursable meals.

We request your assistance by considering the following:

1. Communicate with your schools and parents that weekly menus are subject to change frequently due to these supply chain challenges.
2. Increase wages to find and retain CNP staff.
3. Approve overtime as needed and/or allow flexible scheduling to accommodate delayed or rescheduled deliveries outside of normal operating hours.

EGM/AL/BT

cc: City and County Chief School Financial Officers
City and County Child Nutrition Program Directors
City and County School Principals
Mr. Andy Craig
Dr. Brandon Payne
Mrs. Angelice Lowe

FY21-3039

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