

STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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ALSDE LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE STRATEGICALLY CONSOLIDATING PROGRAMS THAT FEED THE HUNGRY

Montgomery, Ala. – The Alabama State Department of Education's (ALSDE) Child Nutrition Program has launched an expanded website, leveraging its wide array of feeding initiatives for children, teens, and adults.



BREAK for a PLATE

These initiatives help bridge the gap between Alabamians and the food they need – in some cases the only resources that they may have to keep from going hungry.

"With 1 in 4 Alabama families living with food hardships, and nearly 60 percent of the state's public school children eating free or reduced cost school lunches, there was a real need to get more information out to assist our state's residents," said ALSDE Director of Child Nutrition Angelice Lowe.

Initiatives, which are a vital part of the "Break for a Plate Alabama" brand include:

- Community feeding/food distribution, which provides emergency food assistance to low-income Americans as well as supplemental foods to the elderly;
- Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), which primarily provides meals to those children and adults in day care facilities;
- National School Lunch Programs (NSLP), which encompass breakfast, lunch, after school snack, milk, and fresh fruit and vegetable programs; and
- Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), which provides two free meals to any child 18 and under each day during the summer months when school is not in session.

Whereas the Break for a Plate website, www.breakforaplate.com, previously focused solely on the successful Summer Food Service Program, ALSDE leadership made the decision to promote all programs offered through the department. The site now also features initiatives that address the nutritional requirements of students at other times of the school year and school day, as well as children and adults in day care facilities.

The website, www.breakforaplate.com, provides helpful overviews of each of the initiatives, detailing how they operate, who is eligible, and how to participate. It also highlights valuable resources where visitors to the site can find information such as sample meals, recipes, a food buying guide, program fact sheets, and promotional materials for program sponsors.

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Alabama

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Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D. Secretary and Executive Officer "There are many wonderful programs ready to serve Alabamians who need free or reduced-cost food services," said ALSDE Education Specialist Danielle Turk. "From breakfast to lunch to afterschool snacks, and from food banks and pantries to services to seniors, we can help more people. By connecting the programs and pooling these resources in a single website, Break for a Plate aims to make it easier for adults and parents of children to access those meals. If someone is experiencing food insecurity, we want to be their *one-stop shop*."

To learn more about *Break for a Plate* initiatives, call (334) 694-4656. Details can also be found at www.BreakforaPlate.com.

ABOUT BREAK FOR A PLATE ALABAMA

Break for a Plate, comprising Alabama's food service programs, looks to feed those who need healthy meals in Alabama, from school students to children and adults in day care centers to those who depend on local food pantries. Administered by the Alabama Child Nutrition Program of the Alabama State Department of Education, these initiatives each offer programs of their own to address food insecurity among Alabamians. Visit www.breakforaplate.com or call 211 today for more information.

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