



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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State Superintendent of Education

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Alabama
State Board
of Education

USDA Food and Nutrition Service Awards \$1 Million Training Grant to Alabama State Department of Education

Governor Kay Ivey
President

Montgomery, Ala. – The U.S. Department of Agriculture [Food and Nutrition Service](#) Southeast Regional Office announced the award of a \$1,000,000 grant to the Alabama State Department of Education, which administers the [National School Lunch Program](#)

Jackie Zeigler
District I

The grant, formally known as FNS’s “Team Nutrition Training Grant for School Nutrition Professional Readiness and Retention,” will allow the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) to build and retain a strong school nutrition workforce and implement transitional meal pattern standards during the upcoming school year.

Tracie West
District II

The State will create and implement a universal *Meal Pattern Training Program* that will enable School Nutrition Professionals in rural Alabama school districts the opportunity to provide nutritious, palatable school meals that are compliant with USDA Meal Pattern Requirements and align with the Healthy-Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010.

Stephanie Bell
District III

“Nutritious school meals are essential to the ability of America’s children to learn, grow and be healthy,” said FNS Southeast Regional Administrator Willie C. Taylor. “We are grateful to the nutrition professionals at the Alabama Department of Education who have demonstrated a tireless dedication to ensure children receive the nutritious meals they need.”

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV
Vice President

Alabama’s department of education is one of eight state agencies around the nation that received funds from this year’s USDA Team Nutrition Training Grants, which totaled approximately \$7.1 million. The other awardees are the departments of education from Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Virginia, Montana, North Dakota, and Washington.

Tonya S. Chestnut, Ed.D.
District V

“Being able to revamp our school meals programs in Alabama will ultimately enable School Food Authorities to improve meal services, boost student satisfaction and participation, and increase program access for ALL students and families,” said ALSDE Director of Child Nutrition Programs, Angelice Lowe. “We will also be able to work towards our ultimate goals of preventing childhood hunger, building strong families, and helping our communities thrive.”

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.
District VI

Team Nutrition Training [Grants](#) have been a part of the [Team Nutrition](#) initiative since its inception in 1995. The Team Nutrition initiative supports FNS’s [Child Nutrition Programs](#) through training and technical assistance for foodservice, nutrition education for children and their caregivers, and activities to build healthy school and childcare environments.

Bellinda McRae
District VII

For more information about the application process for this year’s Team Nutrition Training Grants, visit [Team Nutrition Training Grants](#). USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is fighting to end food and nutrition insecurity for all through programs such as SNAP, school meals, and WIC. To learn more, visit www.fns.usda.gov and follow [@USDANutrition](#)

Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.
District VIII
President Pro Tem

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

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