

**Alabama State Department of Education  
Child Nutrition Programs  
Child and Adult Care Food Programs  
Good Standing Policy**

A sponsor of the Child and Adult Care Program (CACFP) is in good standing with the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) if it currently meets the three Performance Standards for financial viability; administrative capability, including maintaining adequate staffing to support the level of program service; and program accountability in its program operations. Good standing requires the sponsor to be current with all financial obligations; to have fully implemented the corrective action plan (CAP) from an administrative review within the required time period, if applicable; and to have no repeated or serious deficiencies in the next administrative review.<sup>1</sup> Thus, under current regulations, a sponsor who successfully implemented a corrective action plan is not in good standing until the next administrative review results in no repeated findings.

Good standing is required to apply for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) grants and affects the processes for applying to operate a new Child Nutrition Program (CNP), adding an additional facility, or renewing an approved application.

A new sponsor that has not yet been through an administrative review is in good standing.

**Good Standing for Sponsors of CACFP and SFSP**

A sponsor that operates both CACFP and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is considered to be in good standing for SFSP if it is in good standing for CACFP.

CACFP sponsors who are in good standing may apply to operate SFSP at eligible sites by following the procedures for experienced sponsors. These sponsors are not required to have a pre-approval site visit unless requested to do so by the ALSDE. The ALSDE may request evidence of financial and administrative capability if the sponsor has had significant problems operating CACFP.

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<sup>1</sup> Current regulations only temporarily defer serious deficiencies until the next administrative review. If that review results in a repeated serious deficiency, the ALSDE is required to begin the termination and disqualification process. The USDA's proposed rule on the serious deficiency process in CACFP and SFSP is expected to be finalized in September 2025. The proposed rule, if implemented, should provide a clearer definition of when a serious deficiency is considered fully and permanently corrected.

## **Appendix: Links to Resources**

### Performance Standards for New Institutions

7 CFR 226.6(b)(1)(xviii)

[eCFR.gov](#) | [7 CFR 226.6\(b\)\(1\)\(xviii\)](#)

### Performance Standards for Renewing Institutions

7 CFR 226.6(b)(2)(i)(F)

[eCFR.gov](#) | [7 CFR 226.6\(b\)\(2\)\(i\)\(F\)](#)

### Proposed Rule: Serious Deficiency Process in the CACFP and SFSP

[FNS-USDA.gov](#) | [Serious Deficiency Process in the CACFP and SFSP](#)

### Serious Deficiency and Termination

7 CFR 226.6(c) Denial of Applications and Terminations of Agreements [CACFP]

[eCFR.gov](#) | [7 CFR 226.6\(c\)](#)