

**Alabama State Department of Education  
Child Nutrition Programs  
Summer Food Service Program  
Good Standing Policy**

A sponsor of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) 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>

Good standing is required to apply for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) grants and may facilitate the process of applying for a new Child Nutrition Program (CNP).

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

Good Standing for Sponsors of Multiple Child Nutrition Programs

A sponsor that operates both SFSP and/or the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or the School Breakfast Program (SBP) is considered to be in good standing for SFSP if it is in good standing for NSLP and/or SBP, as applicable.

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

School food authority (SFA) and CACFP sponsors who are in good standing may apply to operate SFSP at the same sites they offer NSLP, SBP, and CACFP by following the procedures for experienced sponsors. These sponsors are not required to submit a management plan 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 NSLP, SBP, or CACFP.

CACFP sponsors in good standing may be exempted from conducting SFSP site visits during the first two weeks of operation for existing sites that had no problems operating the program in the prior year. They also may be exempted from requiring training before accepting SFSP applications.

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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, would provide a clearer definition of when a serious deficiency is considered fully and permanently corrected.

SFSP Non-Congregate Meal Service

SFSP sponsors must be in good standing to offer non-congregate meal service. The ALSDE must determine whether the sponsor has the capacity to operate and oversee non-congregate meal service. If the ALSDE determines a sponsor does not have the capacity, the decision is not appealable.

Date Approved: 8-13-2025

## **Appendix: Links to Resources**

### **General SFSP Information**

USDA FNS Summer Food Service Program Administration Guide 2024  
[USDA.gov | SFSP Administrative Guide 2024](#)

### **SFSP Applications**

7 CFR 225.6(c)(3) Application Requirements for Experienced Sponsors  
[eCFR.gov | 7 CFR 225.6\(c\)\(3\)](#)

7 CFR 225.6(c)(4) Applications for School Food Authorities and Child and Adult Food Program Institutions  
[eCFR.gov | 7 CFR 225.6\(c\)\(4\)](#)

7 CFR 225.6(d) Performance Standards  
[eCFR.gov | 7 CFR 225.6\(d\)](#)

7 CFR 225.6(e)(4) Requirements for School Food Authorities in Good Standing in the National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program, As Applicable, or Institutions in Good Standing in the Child and Adult Care Program  
[eCFR.gov | 7 CFR 225.6\(e\)\(4\)](#)

7 CFR 225.14(c)(1)(i) General Requirements [management plans for CACFP and NSLP sponsors in good standing]  
[eCFR.gov | 7 CFR 225.14\(c\)\(1\)\(i\)](#)

7 CFR 225.16(i) Non-congregate Meal Service Options  
[eCFR.gov | 7 CFR 225.16\(i\)](#)

SFSP 03-2023, Guidance on Performance Standards, Budgets, and Management Plans in the Summer Food Service Program (March 7, 2023)  
[USDA.gov | SFSP 03-2023, Guidance on Performance Standards](#)

### **Serious Deficiency and Termination**

7 CFR 225.11(c) Denial of Applications and Termination of Sponsors [SFSP]  
[eCFR.gov | 7 CFR 225.11\(c\)](#)