

**Alabama State Department of Education
Child Nutrition Programs
School Nutrition Programs
Good Standing Policy**

A school food authority (SFA) is in good standing with the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) if it currently meets all requirements in its program operations. 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).

The following criteria must be met to establish good standing:

1. The SFA satisfactorily implemented all corrective actions for findings from the last administrative review within the required time frame and the review has been closed by the ALSDE.
2. If the SFA undergoes a targeted review based on the last administrative review, all approved corrective actions are implemented and the review is closed by the ALSDE within the required time frame.

If an SFA is not in good standing, ALSDE CNP staff conduct a thorough on-site review of the current fiscal year's financials. If the on-site financial review results in any findings, adequate corrective action must be implemented and the review must be closed before the sponsor can be in good standing.

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

School Takeover

If the Alabama State Board of Education authorizes the State Superintendent to takeover a local education agency (LEA), the State Superintendent (or designee) may direct ALSDE CNP staff to conduct a review of the SFA's CNP financials to ensure full compliance. The SFA is not in good standing until the review is completed. If the review determines the SFA is not in compliance, the SFA is not in good standing. Adequate corrective actions must be implemented and the review must be closed in order for the sponsor to be restored to good standing.

SFAs in Good Standing and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

An SFA in good standing may apply to operate SFSP at the same sites it offers the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and/or the School Breakfast Program (SBP) by following the procedures for experienced sponsors. The SFA is not required to submit a management plan or have a pre-approval site visit unless the ALSDE has reason to request additional evidence of its financial and administrative capability to operate SFSP successfully.

An SFA sponsor that operates both SFSP and/or NSLP or SBP is considered to be in good standing for SFSP if it is in good standing for NSLP and/or SBP, as applicable.

Policy Approved: 8-13-2025

Appendix: Link to Resources

SFAs Offering SFSP

- SP 07-2013, SFSP 04-2013 Revised Summer Feeding Options for School Food Authorities
[Summer Feeding Options for School Food Authorities | Food and Nutrition Service](#)
- USDA FNS Summer Food Service Program Administration Guide 2024
[Summer-Food-Service-Program-Administration-Guide](#)

Unsound Financial Condition—intervention

- Alabama Administrative Code
Rule 290-1-1-.01(3)(d) Unsound Financial Condition—Intervention
[Alabama Administrative Code | Rule 290-1-1-.01\(3\)\(d\)](#)