

**Alabama State Department of Education
Child Nutrition Programs
Child and Adult Care Food Program
Health and Safety Policy**

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) institutions demonstrate compliance with state and local health and safety requirements. The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) CACFP section continuously verifies compliance by reviewing required license, permits, and reports from local and state authorities and through onsite observations.

Health and Safety Documents for New and Renewing Sponsors

1. New and renewing CACFP sponsors of centers and FDCH as well as independent centers submit the following evidence of meeting local and state health and safety requirements and keep currently valid documentation on file at all times:
 - a. License to operate from the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR), the Alabama Department of Mental Health, or the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD)
 - b. Food permit or letter from the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH)
 - c. Health inspection report from the ADPH
 - d. Fire inspection/building permit from the county fire marshal or appropriate local authority
2. At-risk afterschool care centers, outside-school-hours care centers, and emergency shelters meet state or local health and safety standards if state or federal licensing by DHR, DMH, or the DoD is not required.
3. Sponsoring organizations and independent centers maintain currently valid documentation on file for required licenses, permits, and reports authorizing operation.
4. The ADPH's website for food establishment scores may be used to verify the following information on the Health Inspection Report for adult centers, childcare centers, and schools:
 - a. Establishment Name
 - b. Physical Address
 - c. Score
 - d. Inspection Date

Sponsoring Organization Visits

1. Monitors and other staff from sponsoring organizations observe and verify compliance with health and safety requirements during compliance reviews and other visits.
2. Monitors and other staff notify the sponsoring organization, Alabama Department of Human Resources, Alabama Department of Public Health, local health department, and/or 911 if an imminent threat to the health or safety of participants or the public is observed.

ALSDE Staff Visits

1. ALSDE staff observe and verify compliance with health and safety requirements during announced and unannounced onsite visits, virtual visits, technical assistance visits, and compliance reviews.
2. If an imminent threat to the health or safety of participants is observed, ALSDE staff:
 - a. Immediately implement the ALSDE CNP emergency incident procedures
 - b. Notify the appropriate state and local health and safety authorities.
 - c. Follow up on any recommendations or requirements of the state and local health and safety authorities.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Determination of Imminent Threat to Health or Safety

1. If USDA FNS determines there is an imminent threat to the health and safety of Program participants or the public, the ALSDE is required to suspend participation.
2. USDA FNS provides the ALSDE with the information needed to support the suspension.

Suspension, Disqualification, Termination, and Administrative Review

1. If a licensing or health or safety authority cites an institution for a serious health or safety violation, the ALSDE immediately suspends the institution's participation in the Program.
2. Suspended institutions are not eligible for CACFP program participation or program reimbursement.
3. The ALSDE initiates the proposed termination and disqualification process and deems the institution seriously deficient.
4. The institution has 15 days to request an administrative review (appeal) of the notice of proposed termination and disqualification. If the suspension is overturned as a result of the administrative review (appeal) process, the institution may submit a claim for eligible meals and administrative costs incurred during the suspension.

Policy Approved: 12-3-2025

APPENDIX: Links to Resources

Suspension of an Institution’s Participation for Public Health or Safety Issues (Centers)

7 CFR 226.6(c)(5)(i)

[ECFR.gov | 7 CFR 226.6\(c\)\(5\)\(i\)](#)

Suspension of Participation for Imminent Threat to Health or Safety (FNS Determination)

7 CFR 226.6(c)(6)(ii)(B)

[ECFR.gov | 7 CFR 226.6\(c\)\(6\)\(ii\)\(B\)](#)

Imminent Threat to Health or Safety (DCH)

7 CFR 226.16(d)(4)(viii)

[ECFR.gov | 7CFR 226.16\(d\)\(4\)\(viii\)](#)

Suspension of Participation for Day Care Homes for Health or Safety Issues (DCH)

7 CFR 226.16(l)(4)(i)

[ECFR.gov | 7 CFR 226.16\(l\)\(4\)\(i\)](#)

USDA FNS Serious Deficiency, Suspension, & Appeals for State Agencies and Sponsoring Organizations: A Child and Adult Care Food Program Handbook

Part 4 (Centers) and Part 5 (DCH)

[Serious Deficiency Suspension and Appeals Handbook](#)

ADPH Food Establishment Scores

[ADPH | Food Establishment Scores](#)