

November 4, 2021

Lowndes County School District
Mr. Sam Allison, Superintendent
1053 Hwy 45 South
Columbus, MS 39701-0000

Dear Mr. Allison:

The State Agency (SA) completed an Administrative Review (AR) of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and After School Care Program (ASCP) during the week of October 20, 2021. An exit conference was conducted on November 4, 2021. The regulations governing the Administrative Review (7 CFR 210.18) require the SA to review two Critical Areas: Performance Standard 1 (Meal Access and Reimbursement) and Performance Standard 2 (Meal Pattern and Nutritional Quality). The Review additionally covers several General Areas of Review. Over the course of the SA Review, **three (3) total findings were identified, including one (1) relating to Performance Standard 2.** The SA is pleased to report that **none of the findings have resulted in fiscal action.** The findings which were identified are described below.

LEA/District Level Findings

- In accordance with 7 CFR 210.11 (c), competitive food items sold to students during the school day must meet general nutrition requirements (must be “*Smart Snack Compliant*”). During the observation of New Hope Elementary, the SA noted that several items in the vending machine were not smart snack compliant. In order to demonstrate corrective action, the LEA/District must work with the vending company to remove all non-compliant products and submit documentation to the SA that each product included in the vending machine is smart snack compliant.

SFA Level Findings

Performance Standard 2: Meal Content and Nutritional Quality

- In accordance with 7 CFR 210.10 (i), a nutrient analysis should be used to determine that the weighted average of calories in the meals offered to each grade group over a school week meet federal requirements. Based on the nutrient analysis, the SA determined that the weighted average of calories in the elementary lunch menu has exceeded the allowable range by thirteen (13) calories. In order to demonstrate corrective action, the

SFA must modify the menu and submit an updated nutrient analysis indicating that the menu is compliant for calories.

Performance Standard 1 and 2

- In accordance with 7 CFR 210.10 (o) (2), SFAs must serve after school snacks that meet the minimum meal pattern requirements. On the day of review, the Reviewer did not observe any improper serving or counting; however one of the teachers indicated that if a child were to select only one item, the meal would be counted and claimed. In order to demonstrate corrective action, the SFA must provide additional training on meal pattern and counting and claiming to the teachers responsible for after school snack distribution.

The School Food Authority (SFA) **must provide a corrective action response to all findings** of the Review by **December 6, 2021**. This response must be entered into the Mississippi Application and Reimbursement System (MARS) by an authorized signatory for the Child Nutrition Programs. If an authorized signatory is unable to access the Compliance module in MARS, the district must submit a corrective action plan on District letterhead that is signed by an authorized signatory.

In addition to conducting the AR, one of the functions of the SA is to provide Technical Assistance (TA). During the course of the review, the SA Reviewer provided TA in several areas to the CND. TA is documented in MARS, specifically in the “Technical Assistance” section of the “Compliance” Module. TA is provided for the improvement of the program operations and is not considered a finding.

The SA would like to commend the SFA for their obvious efforts to prepare for the review and to be in line with program regulations. The SA noted that cafeteria staff seemed to be well-trained on program regulations and customer service. SA also was impressed that staff at Caledonia HS made a point to speak to every single student who came through the line.

If you have any questions regarding this review, or if you would like to request additional assistance, please email me at mchauvin@mdek12.org or call Mary Burks or me at (601) 576-5000.

Sincerely,



Marianna Chauvin, Division Director II
Office of Child Nutrition, School Support Division

cc: File NSLP (AR) 2021/2022
Mr. Andrew Matthews, Child Nutrition Director

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

December 6, 2021

Lowndes County School District
Mr. Sam Allison, Superintendent
1053 Hwy 45 South
Columbus, MS 39701-0000

Dear Mr. Allison:

Your response to the findings of our Administrative Review of your 2021-2022 National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and After School Care Program (ASCP) has been received and accepted in the Mississippi Application and Reimbursement System (MARS). We are closing the file on this review.

If you have any questions concerning this review or need assistance, please call Mary Burks or me at (601) 576-5000. Thank you for your continued support of the Child Nutrition Programs.

Sincerely,



Marianna Chauvin, Division Director II
Office of Child Nutrition, School Support Division

cc: File NSLP (AR) 2021/22
Andrew Matthews, Child Nutrition Director

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