



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
 State Superintendent of Education

September 13, 2024

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Eric G. Mackey *EGM*
 State Superintendent of Education

RE: United States Department of Agriculture Nondiscrimination Statement on Websites

Rarely do I send you a memorandum issuing guidance with which I personally disagree. Nevertheless, the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Civil Rights Division requires the Child Nutrition Programs Section of the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) to verify that the federally required Nondiscrimination Statement (NDS) is posted on the websites of all School Food Authorities (SFAs) participating in the National School Lunch Program.

The USDA Civil Rights Division requires the full NDS to be posted on the home page of the Program website. The NDS must be posted in both English and Spanish as well as in any other languages appropriate to the community. The NDS in English and other languages is available on the USDA website [[Nondiscrimination Statement | Food and Nutrition Service \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/nondiscrimination-statement-food-and-nutrition-service)]. When downloading the NDS in languages other than English, be sure to select the version under the heading "All Other Programs NDS."

All SFAs must submit a screenshot of the Child Nutrition Program webpage that shows the NDS has been posted in English and Spanish. Please send the screenshot via to Dr. Anna Kozlowski via email (anna.kozlowski@alsde.edu) no later than September 30, 2024.

Although I do not agree with the specific terminology/wording in the NDS, ALSDE is fully committed to ensuring all eligible students have access to the USDA feeding program. This request to post the NDS is not an endorsement by the state or local district of the contents or wording of the NDS but is merely compliance with the federally mandated verbiage to ensure our students continue to have access to the USDA feeding program.

We appreciate your assistance in documenting Alabama's compliance with federal civil rights regulations. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of General Counsel at 334-694-4699.

EGM/ATK/NF

cc: Child Nutrition Program Directors
 City and County School Principals
 Private School Administrators
 Residential Child Care Institution Administrators
 Dr. Brandon T. Payne
 Mr. Jason Swann
 Mrs. Peggy Rossmanith
 Mrs. Angelice Lowe
 Mrs. Julie Autrey

FY24-3061

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