

March 15, 2022

Benton County School District
Mr. Pete Howell, Superintendent
231 Court Street
Ashland, MS 38603-0000

Dear Mr. Howell:

Your response to the findings of our Administrative Review of your 2021-2022 National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) 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,



Jimmy May, Program Specialist
Office of Child Nutrition, School Support Division

cc: File NSLP (AR) 2021/2022
Anola Stricklin, Child Nutrition Director

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

January 27, 2022

Benton County School District
Mr. Pete Howell, Superintendent
PO Box 247
Ashland, MS 38603-0000

Dear Mr. Howell:

The State Agency (SA) completed an Administrative Review (AR) of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) during the week of November 17, 2021. An exit conference was conducted on January 11, 2022. 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, **one (1) finding was identified.** The SA is pleased to report that **none of the findings have resulted in fiscal action.** The finding which was identified is described below.

District/LEA 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*”). The Reviewer noted that the snacks that are sold in the school store did not meet the Smart Snack Guidelines. The Principal purchases multiple snack items from Sam's for sale in the store. The Reviewer tested four items (Gardettos, Pork Skins, Lance Toasty, & Powerade): none of which were smart snack compliant. The Reviewer informed the principal that the items could not be sold to the students. The principal stated that she will sell the snacks at the concession stand at the game instead of during the school day. In order to demonstrate on-going corrective action, the District must submit a corrective action plan to ensure that all items are smart snack compliant in the future. The District must also submit documentation for each item currently being sold in the school store, indicating that those items are smart snack compliant.

The School Food Authority (SFA) **must provide a corrective action response to all findings** of the Review by **February 28, 2022**. 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 on a job well done! The Director and Staff work very well together. The staff has built a rapport with students. They also demonstrate a sincere care and concern for the students. Keep up the Great Work!!

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jimmy May". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jimmy May, Program Specialist
Office of Child Nutrition, School Support Division

cc: File NSLP (AR) 2021/2022
Anola Stricklin, Child Nutrition Director

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