

April 23, 2025

ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

McComb School District Dr. Tiffany Hicks, Superintendent 695 Minnesota Ave. McComb, MS 39649

Dear Dr. Hicks:

Your response to the findings of our Administrative Review of your 2024-2025 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 Gerardo Padilla or me at (601) 576-5000. Thank you for your continued support of the Child Nutrition Programs.

Sincerely,

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Quatrice Hyde,Program Specialist Office of Child Nutrition, School Support Division

cc: File NSLP (AR) 2024-2025 Mrs. Betty Williams, Child Nutrition Director

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500 Greymont Avenue, Suite F P.O. Box 771 Jackson, MS 39205-0771 Phone (601) 576-5000 Fax (601) 354-7595

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April 8, 2025

ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Dr. Tiffany Hicks, Superintendent McComb School District 695 Minnesota Ave. McComb, MS 39649

Dear Dr. Hicks:

The State Agency (SA) completed an Administrative Review (AR) of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), After School Care Program (ASCP), and Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) during the week of **November 11**, **2024**. An exit conference was conducted on **February 14**, **2025**.

The regulations governing the Administrative Review (7 CFR 210.18) require the SA to evaluate two Critical Areas: Performance Standard 1 (Meal Access and Reimbursement) and Performance Standard 2 (Meal Pattern and Nutritional Quality). The review also includes several General Areas of Review.

Over the course of the review, three (3) total findings were identified, none of which were related to Performance Standard 1 or 2. The SA is pleased to report that none of the findings resulted in fiscal action. A description of the findings is provided below:

General Program Compliance (General Areas of Review)

• The reviewer observed students consuming non-compliant snacks, including frozen pickle juice, Flamin' Hot Cheetos, Kool-Aid Jammers juice, and popsicles during lunch. These items do not meet USDA Smart Snacks guidelines. The principal confirmed that students pre-order these items earlier in the week for consumption during recess at the end of the week. However, this practice violates federal regulations. Specifically, **7 CFR 210.11** mandates that all competitive foods sold to students on campus during the school day must meet USDA nutrition standards. Additionally, **7 CFR 210.11(a)(5)** prohibits the sale of non-compliant items during school hours, defined as the period from midnight before the school day begins to 30 minutes after it ends. The Local Educational Agency (LEA) must provide documentation demonstrating that the sale of non-compliant items during school hours has ceased. Continued noncompliance may result in regulatory action by the USDA.

• The reviewer observed non-compliant Powerade stocked in the vending machine at McComb High School. In accordance with **7 CFR 210.11**, all items sold in vending machines during the school day must meet Smart Snacks regulations. To demonstrate corrective action, the LEA must submit a corrective action plan with photographic evidence showing that only compliant beverages are stocked in the vending machines.

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• The reviewer noted significant ice buildup in the freezer. In accordance with **7 CFR 210.13**, the School Food Authority (SFA) must ensure that all facilities used for the storage, preparation, and service of food are properly maintained. Facilities for handling, storing, and distributing purchased and donated foods must safeguard against theft, spoilage, and other losses. To demonstrate corrective action, the SFA must submit documentation confirming that the ice buildup has been resolved and is no longer a safety or storage hazard.

The SFA must submit a corrective action response for all findings no later than **May 8**, **2025**. This response must be entered into the Mississippi Application and Reimbursement System (MARS) by an authorized signatory for the Child Nutrition Programs. If the authorized signatory is unable to access the Compliance module in MARS, the corrective action plan must be submitted on district letterhead and 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 review, the SA reviewer provided TA in several areas to the Child Nutrition Director (CND). TA is documented in MARS under the "Technical Assistance" section of the "Compliance" module. TA is provided to support program improvement and is not considered a finding.

The SA would like to commend the SFA for its efforts in offering appealing food choices and maintaining clean, organized facilities. We also appreciate the SFA's diligence in providing requested documentation in a timely manner.

If you have any questions regarding this review, or if you would like to request additional assistance, please email me at **<u>qhyde@mdek12.org</u>**, or contact either Gerardo Padilla or me at **(601) 576-5000**.

Sincerely,

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Quatrice Hyde, Program Specialist Office of Child Nutrition, School Support Division

cc: File – NSLP (AR) SY 2024–2025 Child Nutrition Director - williamsb@mccomb.k12.ms.us Administrative Review Report – SY 2024–2025

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