

August 19, 2025

**ELECTRONIC DELIVERY**

Dr. Robert Williams, Superintendent  
Hattiesburg Public School District  
301 Mamie Street  
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39403  
superintendent@hattiesburgpsd.com

Dear Dr. Williams:

Your response to the findings of our Administrative Review of your 2024-2025 National School Lunch Program (NSLP) 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 me at (601) 576-5000. Thank you for your continued support of the Child Nutrition Programs.

Sincerely,



Chris Salley, Program Specialist  
Office of Child Nutrition, School Support Division

cc: Alexis Caston, Child Nutrition Director, alexsis.caston@hattiesburgpsd.com  
File NSLP (AR) 2024-2025

July 30, 2025

ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Hattiesburg Public School District  
Dr. Robert Williams, Superintendent  
P.O. Box 1569  
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39403  
superintendent@hattiesburgpsd.com

Dear Dr. Williams:

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 March 3, 2025. 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) total finding was identified**. The SA is pleased to report that **the finding did not result in fiscal action**. The finding is described below.

**Meal Pattern & Nutritional Quality**

The School Food Authority (SFA) initially submitted a nutrient analysis to the State Agency (SA) that did not meet USDA compliance standards. The SFA had incorrectly estimated its planned number of food items served relative to the actual food items served. The SA provided technical assistance, enabling the SFA to correct these discrepancies and resubmit the nutrient analysis. While the updated nutrient analysis reflected improved forecasting, it still reveals significant concerns: the average daily calories were below minimum requirements for four days, and the average saturated fat content exceeded the 10% threshold of total calories. In accordance with 7 CFR 210.10 (f)(1) and 7 CFR 210.10(f)(2), the average calorie content of meals must fall between 750-850 calories for grades 9-12, and the total calories from saturated fat must be less than 10%.

The SFA must submit a corrective action plan detailing the measures taken to ensure future meal compliance, for example, implementing more accurate forecasting tools or staff training in menu planning. Additionally, the SFA must submit the nutrient analysis for the first week of SY 2025-2026 operations to demonstrate meal nutrient compliance. Serving meals below calorie requirements with excessive saturated fat can negatively impact student health and well-being. Furthermore, future violations could result in non-compliant meals being disallowed and subject to fiscal action.

The School Food Authority (SFA) **must provide a corrective action response to all findings** of the Review by **August 18, 2025**. This response must be entered into the Mississippi Application and Reimbursement System (MARS) by an authorized

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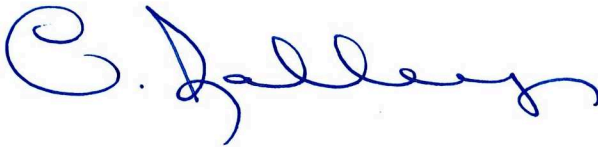
signatory for the Child Nutrition Programs. If an authorized signatory is unable to access the Compliance module in MARS, the district must submit a corrective action plan on District letterhead that is signed by an authorized signatory.

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 its dedication to providing appetizing meals to the children of Hattiesburg. The sites visited were clean and welcoming, and the meals served were visually appealing. The student's enthusiasm was evident during meal service observations. Ms. Caston and her staff were welcoming and kind, and provided all requested documents in a timely manner. This expedited the review process and made time spent in the district a pleasure.

If you have any questions regarding this review, or if you would like to request additional assistance, please email me at [csalley@mdek12.org](mailto:csalley@mdek12.org) or call Taquasia Hicks or me at (601) 576-5000.

Sincerely,



Chris Salley, Program Specialist  
Office of Child Nutrition, School Support Division

cc: File NSLP (AR) 2024/2025  
Ms. Alexis Caston, Child Nutrition Director