



MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Office of Child Nutrition
Scott Clements, Director of Child Nutrition

August 21, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Petal School District
Dr. Matt Dillon, Superintendent
613 South Main Street
Petal, MS 39465
matt.dillon@petalschools.com

Dear Dr. Dillon:

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,

Dawn Camel, Program Specialist
Office of Child Nutrition, School Support Division

cc: Daniel Dillistone, Child Nutrition Director danny.dillistone@petalschools.com
File NSLP (AR) 2024-2025

June 25, 2025

ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Petal School District
Dr. Dillon, Superintendent
613 S. Main Street
Petal, MS 39465-0000

Dear Dr. Dillon:

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 March 5, 2025. An exit conference was conducted on April 23, 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, **(1) finding was identified, including (1) relating to General Program Compliance.** The SA is pleased to report that **none of the findings have resulted in fiscal action.** The finding which was identified is described below.

General Program Compliance (General Areas of Review)

The reviewer noted that water was located in the same cooler as milk. Offering water from the milk cooler could potentially interfere with students' choices, leading them to select water instead of milk. In accordance with SP 39-2019, water made available to students in National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) shall not compete with milk. In order to demonstrate corrective action, the SFA must submit photographs demonstrating the separation of milk and water. The USDA wants to ensure that students are offered and encouraged to take the full, nutritionally complete reimbursable meal, which includes milk. When water "competes," it can disrupt this intent, leading to financial penalties for the school.

The School Food Authority (SFA) **must provide a corrective action response to all findings** of the Review by August 25, 2025. 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 the staff’s dedication to preparing appealing and nutritional meal options for students.

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

Sincerely,

Dawn Camel, Program Specialist
Office of Child Nutrition, School Support Division

cc: File NSLP (AR) 2024/2025