



Office of Child Nutrition  
**Scott Clements, Director of Child Nutrition**

November 21, 2025

**ELECTRONIC DELIVERY**

Hinds County School District  
Dr. Mitchell Shears, Superintendent  
13192 Hwy 18  
Raymond, MS 39154

Dear Dr. Shears:

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 Yolanda Bacon or me at (601) 576-5000. Thank you for your continued support of the Child Nutrition Programs.

Sincerely,

Kaneisha Barnett-Greer, Program Specialist  
Office of Child Nutrition, School Support Division

cc: File NSLP (AR) 2024-2025  
Natalie Smith, Child Nutrition Director

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

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October 20, 2025

## **ELECTRONIC DELIVERY**

Dr. Mitchell Shears, Superintendent  
Hinds County School District  
13192 Hwy 18  
Raymond, MS 39154

Dear Dr. Shears:

The State Agency (SA) completed an Administrative Review (AR) of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), during the week of March 24, 2025. An exit conference was conducted on May 2, 2025. In accordance with 7CFR 210.18, the AR covers Performance Standard 1(Meal Access and Reimbursement), Performance Standard 2(Meal Pattern and Nutritional Quality), and several General Areas of Review. A total of two (2) findings were identified. Each finding is described below, along with the corrective action measures required to resolve them.

### **Meal Access and Reimbursement**

During the certification and benefit issuance review, the reviewer identified three meal applications with incorrect eligibility statuses. These misclassifications resulted in students either incorrectly receiving free benefits when they were only eligible for paid or reduced-price meals or being wrongly denied free or reduced-price benefits. These discrepancies violate 7 CFR 245.3, which requires accurate determination based on household size and income or categorical eligibility. The error percentage of meal applications was 0.83%. The United States Department of Agriculture allows the SA to have discretion of issuing fiscal action when the errors are under 3% district wide. As a result, the SA decided to waive fiscal action. The SA recommends that the SFA ensures that all meal applications undergo a second-party check. For corrective action, the SFA must submit a plan to the SA detailing how it will prevent future meal application errors.

### **General Area of Review**

The reviewer observed dented cans in the dry storage area. 7 CFR 210.13(c), mandates that school food authority must comply with the food safety requirements of the food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Food Code, as adopted by the State or local governmental entity having jurisdiction over the school. Based on the FDA Food Code and USDA guidance, deeply dented cans, especially those compromised at the seams, must be discarded to prevent contamination. The School Food Authority (SFA) must immediately discard all dented cans and provide a Corrective Action Plan detailing how this issue will be prevented in the future.

**Corrective Action Plan Requirements**

The SFA must submit a complete corrective action response for each finding by **November 20, 2025**.

**Technical Assistance Provided**

In addition to conducting AR, one of the functions of SA is to provide Technical Assistance (TA). During the review, the SA Reviewer provided TA in several areas to the Child Nutrition Director. 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 State Agency would like to commend the staff at Hinds County School District for their customer service provided to the students and prompt responses received from the child nutrition director during the administrative review.

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

Sincerely,



Kaneisha Barnett-Greer, Program Specialist  
Office of Child Nutrition, School Support Division

cc: File attachment

Ms. Natalie Smith, Child Nutrition Director,  
[natsmith@hinds.k12.ms.us](mailto:natsmith@hinds.k12.ms.us)