Child Nutrition Programs (CNP), which are available for Alabama public charter schools, include the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, and Afterschool Snack Programs. The funding source for meal operation and service in Alabama is provided by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) federally funded child nutrition programs and is based on monthly claims for reimbursement. Claims for reimbursement are based on reimbursable student meals as defined by the USDA in meal counting and claiming guidance.

Participation in any of these programs requires that all sponsors comply with federal regulatory requirements as outlined in the Code of Federal Regulations 7, Parts 210 and 220. The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) is committed to teaching students to develop lifelong healthy eating habits that will ultimately assist them in reaching their greatest potential. Serving healthy meals provides the necessary fuel to build strong minds and bodies, which, in turn, helps students model healthy eating habits at home and throughout their lives.

In 2013, the USDA issued rules that apply to foods and beverages sold on campus during the day. As a result of this rule, the ALSDE, along with all states participating in USDA federally funded programs, were required to develop a state policy for the governance of food sales on school campuses. See the following link for guidance on foods sold during the school day: http://www.alsde.edu/sec/cnp/snp/Pages/memos-all.aspx.

In addition, the Alabama Department of Public Health, Division of Food, Milk and Lodging, provides rules and regulations regarding the safety and sanitation of food. For more information about food safety and requirements for starting a food service program, go to the following resource: http://www.adph.org/environmental/.

For further requirements and other detailed information that will be of interest to all public charter school administrators, please visit the Child Nutrition, School Programs, microsite, the direct hyperlink to the CNP page on the ALSDE website.

**NOTE:** This working document “highlights” some key components of the Alabama School Choice and Student Opportunity Act (Act 2015-3), but does not attempt to address all child nutrition program guidance specific to public charter schools. Information included in this working document will be updated as the Alabama State Department of Education develops specific guidance regarding Alabama public charter schools. Please send questions to pcs@alsde.edu.