



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

Alabama
State Board
of Education

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 19, 2019

CONTACT: Communications
334-694-4687
comm@alsde.edu

Governor Kay Ivey
President

ALABAMA GULF COAST SUMMER MEAL PROGRAM
EARNS TOP USDA AWARD

Jackie Zeigler
District I
President Pro Tem

Montgomery, Ala. – Summer meals are a *critical* resource for millions of American K-12 students. Each year the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) recognizes the nation’s best summer food service programs by presenting *The Turnip the Beet Awards*.

Tracie West
District II

This year, Alabama’s *Feeding the Gulf Coast: Feel the Beat, Let's Eat Program* has been officially awarded a **Silver National Turnip the Beet Award**.

Stephanie Bell
District III

Recipients of this special award are the top in the country for providing high-quality and healthy meals to students and their families. These programs are perfect examples of professionalism and represent the nation’s best summer meal providers and local sponsors.

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV

See the official *Feeding the Gulf Coast* video at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=16&v=ZEmC2q7deOU

Ella B. Bell
District V

Turnip the Beet award winners are summer meal sponsors who are going above and beyond, to ensure every meal that they prepare is both nutritious and appetizing for students. They showcase excellence by serving a variety of vegetables, fruits, whole grains and dairy products. These top programs often also incorporate student and parent feedback into their menus – *offering both delicious and nutritionally balanced meals*.

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.
District VI

See the full list of national winners on the official USDA website:

<https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2019/06/18/just-announced-turnip-beet-awards-recognize-high-quality-summer-meals>

Jeff Newman
District VII
Vice President

This year, only 118 summer meal providers nationwide received a *bronze, silver, or gold* Turnip the Beet Award.

Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.
District VIII

Feeding the Gulf Coast provides resources to more than 400 meal centers throughout 24 counties in Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida. It feeds over 300,000 people each year.

Learn more about this award-winning community and outreach program at

<https://www.feedingthegulfcoast.org/>.

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
Secretary and
Executive Officer

###