



Food and Nutrition Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

May 6, 2026

Adrienne Schwartz

Child Nutrition Programs Manager

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

333 Willoughby Ave, 9th Floor

Juneau, AK 99501

Dear Ms. Schwartz,

This letter is in response to the plan that was submitted by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (AK DEED) on April 17, 2026, for a 5-year School Meal Programs Administrative Review cycle. This plan details AK DEED approach to identifying school food authorities that meet the high-risk criteria; the high-risk school food authorities will receive a targeted follow-up review. Pursuant to 7 CFR 210.18(c)(1), the Western Regional Office (WRO) approves AK DEED's plan with an extended cycle that began on July 1, 2024, and will end on June 30, 2029.

As provided in the plan, WRO notes that the Food Service Management Company (FSMC) Review cycle began on July 1, 2024, and will end on June 30, 2029.

State agencies should work to complete their reviews as outlined in their approved plan and ensure completion of all reviews within the specified time frame. State agencies will continue to provide any necessary technical assistance and training for school food authorities that are identified as high-risk. The targeted follow-up review is an additional opportunity for the State agency to provide assistance to school food authorities as they strive to efficiently and effectively operate the Programs in line with Program regulations.

As a reminder, the State agency will need to submit a revised plan for approval if there are any major changes to this approved plan. Major changes would include revisions to the:

- High-risk criteria;

- Targeted review content or procedure; and/or
- Frequency of reviews.

In cases where a revised plan is submitted, a new approval letter will be issued. The new approval letter will supersede any previous approvals.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the WRO.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "GeNam Chew".

GeNam Chew
Branch Chief, School Nutrition Programs
Western Regional Office
USDA Food and Nutrition Service

Enclosure: AK State Monitoring Plan_Aproved_5.6.2026