



FLORIDA SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION, INC.

Advancing child nutrition programs that promote wellness and academic success, while promoting leadership development opportunities to members.

Ms. Yashica Ceasar, Bureau Chief
Bureau of Child Care Food Programs
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-17
Tallahassee, FL 32399

January 11, 2023

Dear Ms. Ceasar,

Child nutrition is imperative for our children to learn and thrive which is why we would like to ask for assistance in managing the After School Meals (ASM) program in schools. While the program is regulated by USDA and administered through the Department of Health, the program remains separate and distinctly different from the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). There are a few recommendations we would like you to consider to align and make the programs more efficient. Please let us know your response to the following suggestions.

1. Provide technical assistance to combine the NSLP program documentation with the ASM program documentation. The documentation is currently the same for both programs but must be entered separately.
2. Provide training for each district participating in the ASM program for both the Department of Health and School Nutrition Administrators in the program and audit requirements. Current training includes the child-care administration which have distinct and different needs than schools.
3. Consistency with qualifications for schools serving the After School Snack through NSLP and serving supper through CACFP
4. Provide technical assistance to expand the ASM program including school based best practices, marketing materials and school official communications.

In addition, a meeting with Child Nutrition Directors and their counterparts in their health departments would help transfer knowledge with respect to school-based operations. While the growth of the ASM program is obvious to school nutrition professionals, the support from the Florida Bureau of Child Care Programs is needed to increase participation. Expansion of the ASM program would also support the goals of the State Health Improvement Plan. I look forward to communicating with you.

Sincerely,

Lora Gilbert, MS, RD, SNS, FADA
President, Florida School Nutrition Association