



**BILL LEE**  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
NINTH FLOOR, ANDREW JOHNSON TOWER  
710 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY  
NASHVILLE, TN 37243-0375

**LIZZETTE REYNOLDS**  
COMMISSIONER

February 29, 2024

Mrs. Lakendra Butler  
Strive Collegiate Academy  
3055 Lebanon Pike Suite 300  
Nashville, TN 37214-2230

Dear Mrs. Butler:

Please find the attached summary review of findings from the School Nutrition Program's 2023-24 fiscal year administrative review of Strive Collegiate Academy National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. This review was conducted the week of February 26, 2024, with the exit date of February 28, 2024. The attached summary includes the identified findings and the corrective actions required.

District responses and supporting documentation of corrective actions are required for all findings, and findings must be corrected district-wide. The School Nutrition Program director must provide the responses to the findings via the Tennessee: Meals, Accounting, and Claiming (TMAC) system in the "Compliance" section, as discussed with the lead reviewer. Technical assistance areas do not require responses; these suggestions are only to help the district improve the program. They are also available in the "Compliance" section in TMAC.

All corrective actions shall be documented and supported in the "Compliance" section in TMAC no later than March 29, 2024. During this timeframe, if you identify errors or points of disagreement in our findings, please contact me, to discuss the next steps. If there are no errors or points of disagreement, please be mindful that refusal or failure to comply with the required, corrective actions within the allotted timeframe may result in fiscal action.

Upon receipt of Strive Collegiate Academy's documented corrective action, the Tennessee Department of Education will determine whether the documentation is complete and resolve the findings identified. Once the department approves the corrective actions, your district will receive a closure letter closing the review within 30 calendar days.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office at (800) 354-3663.

Sincerely,

Bill Byford  
State Director of School Nutrition  
School Nutrition Program

**Strive Collegiate Academy (C770)**

**Review ID: 3642**

**Exit Conference Date: 2/28/2024**

**Review Year: 2023-2024**

**Month of Review: January**

**Lead Reviewer: Brooke Walker-Babbs**

Area	Findings ID	Finding Description	Required Corrective Action
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**SFA - Level Findings**

100 - Certification and Benefit Issuance	V-0100	Observed that the denial letter did not contain all of the required information.	Change the denial of benefits notification letter to include the reason the application is denied. Upload a copy of the notification letter to demonstrate compliance.
200 - Verification	V-0200	Observed applications were not selected and verified correctly.	Correct applications found in error and update eligibility determination. Upload a copy of the notification letter to the household communicating the results of the verification process and a roster or software report showing accurate student eligibility. Upload a copy of the plan of action to demonstrate compliance.
1000 - Local School Wellness Policy	V-1000	Determined the results of the assessment were not made public.	Post the assessment on the SFA website or distribute the results of the assessment in some way. Upload the web address for the assessment or upload documentation of the distribution of the assessment to demonstrate compliance.
1600 - School Breakfast and SFSP Outreach	V-1600	Observed the families were not informed of the availability of the School Breakfast Program before or at the beginning of the school year.	Create documentation to inform families of the school breakfast program. Upload documentation indicating that information was dispersed to families to demonstrate compliance.
1400 - Food Safety	V-1400	Observed SFA did not have documentation on Buy American regulations.	Provide the SFA supervisor with a list of items that are exempt from Buy American regulations per the School Food Authority's Buy American contract provisions. Upload the list to demonstrate compliance.
700 - Resource Management	V-0700	Observed that the School Food Authority had unallowable costs in the child nutrition program.	Transfer the total amount for the unauthorized expenditures from the general school fund to the nonprofit school foodservice account. Upload documentation that shows the fund transfer. Use federal regulations at 2CFR200.402-411 and 2CFR200.420-475 to create internal controls for allowable costs. Upload documentation to demonstrate compliance.
100 - Certification and Benefit Issuance	V-0100	Observed that there was an application approved for reduced benefits rather than paid and an application approved as free rather than reduced.	Properly process the Household Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals. Assign the correct benefit as necessary and send the household a benefits letter as required when a benefit is changed or denied. Upload copies of each benefit letter for compliance.

**Site - Level Findings: Strive Collegiate Academy (8090)**

1300 - Water	V-1300	Observed water requirements were not met. Free potable water was not readily accessible to students for both breakfast and lunch.	Provide free potable water to all students for both breakfast and lunch. Upload a picture demonstrating water has been made available during the meal service to demonstrate compliance.
1400 - Food Safety	V-1400	Observed the SFA's food safety plan was not properly implemented.	Provide training on how to properly date mark food items per HACCP manual. Upload agenda and sign-in sheet to demonstrate compliance.

