



This information is to keep you informed of any changes in policies and procedures and of new communication originating from the State Office this month.

August 27, 2018 CE Edition

Attachments with this issue:

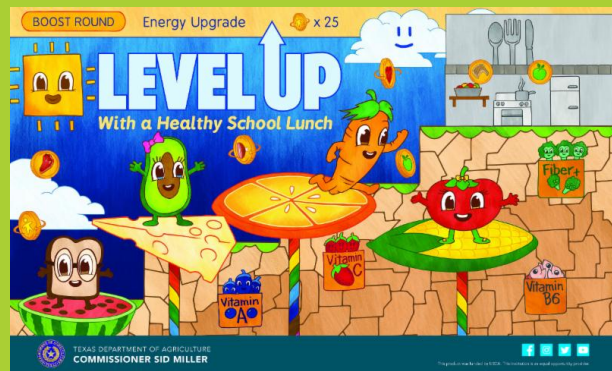
[USDA Summer Meals Newsletter for Sponsors Revised](#)

[Federal Register Posting - Comments Related to Special Milk Program](#)

[Federal Register Posting - Request for Comment Related to Study of SFA Procurement Practices](#)

National School Lunch Week

National School Lunch Week is quickly approaching and TDA has created several materials to help schools promote their celebrations October 15-19 this year! Students were encouraged March-May 18' to submit their original artwork for the "You Art What You Eat" art contest based on this year's NSLW week theme, "Level Up With A Healthy School Lunch". There were numerous entries from all over the state and one winner was chosen from the Elementary category and one winner from the Middle/High School category. From the winning artwork two sets of 3 posters were created. The cafeteria posters are currently being printed and will be distributed to schools for CNDs to display on their cafeteria walls or hang in the tri-a-rama ceiling display systems to promote NSLW at their school. Schools can now order National School Lunch Week materials at no cost! Materials include: Parent Invites, Participation Posters, Selfie Backdrops, Floor Decals and Tri-a-ramas to further promote and excite students about NSLW! You can also order student ballots and ballot boxes to use throughout the year's for taste testing and other fun events. Use the provided link to order today! Orders are due by September 21, 2018! [NSLW Order Form](#).



TX-UNPS Updates

2018 SSO Age/Grade Portion Size Waiver Still Available

The SSO Age/Grade Group Meal Pattern Portion Sizes Waiver is available in TX-UNPS under Download Forms: SNP-104. CEs participating in SSO that are operating open and restricted open sites and have difficulty implementing the age/grade group requirements may apply for a waiver. The waiver, if approved, will allow the CE to serve the portion size consistent with the most commonly served age/grade group at that site. The waiver is applied to the month during which the waiver was submitted and any future months of operation during the summer of that year. For example, an approved waiver submitted on June 3 would apply from June 1 through the remaining summer months of that year, and



would not include May meal service. Click [here](#) for more information.

Summer Mandate Cost Reporting – Available Now!

School districts mandated to participate in the 2018 summer nutrition programs are required to submit the Summer Cost Report form through TX-UNPS, unless a waiver was granted. The form is located in TX-UNPS by following School Nutrition Programs > Applications > Summer Nutrition Program Costs. All districts which participated in SFSP, SSO, or partnered with another SFA should report all operating costs to TDA even if the costs were \$0.00. If operating costs were \$0.00, please enter \$0.01 to avoid errors. The cost report must be completed and submitted to TDA in TX-UNPS by **October 9, 2018** to avoid a Corrective Action Plan.

More information and Cost Report Instructions may be found on the [Summer Waivers page](#).

Final Notice - 2016 Equipment Grants

All 2016 NSLP Equipment Grant reimbursement requests must be sent to PO.BOps@TexasAgriculture.gov by close of business this **Friday, August 31, 2018**. Notify PO.BOps@TexasAgriculture.gov immediately if you have any questions or you cannot meet this deadline.

Policy News

Federal Register Postings

Federal Register Posting - Notice of Request for Comment Related to Special Milk Program for Children is attached.

Federal Register Posting - Notice of Request for Comment Related to Study of School Food Authority (SFA) Procurement Practices is attached.

Rescinded Guidance - This notice is to rescind TA 01-2007 *Determining Creditability of Breakfast Cereals for Child Nutrition Programs*, which was issued on November 28, 2006. The guidance in this memo is outdated and was superseded with the release of updated meal pattern requirements for Child Nutrition Programs, beginning in 2012. State agencies are reminded to distribute this information to Program operators. Program operators should direct any questions regarding this to the appropriate State agency. State agencies should direct questions to the appropriate FNS Regional Office.



Texas Farm Fresh Initiative



Register today for TDA's Farm Fresh Challenge!

This October TDA encourages schools to Eat Local. Teach Local. And Be Social and will recognize participants that take the challenge. The **Farm Fresh Challenge** (previously the **Local Products Challenge**) is back for its 5th year. See what's new and pledge your participation right away!

Pledge Now!

[See the List of Current Participants](#)

New! Download High-Res Print Files for All Farm Fresh Challenge Support Materials

Download print ready files for stickers, static clings, and buttons to help each campus in your district celebrate the Farm Fresh Challenge. Click the sticker icon on SquareMeals.org/FarmFreshChallenge.

New! Social Media Support Package

CE's taking the Farm Fresh Challenge can complete the Be Social component of the challenge with ease using the **Social Media Support Package**. Sample post language and tips for making images look best on any platform are all included.

Stay Connected — Subscribe to TDA's Farm Fresh E-Harvest

This newsletter provides a monthly update on farm to school and includes resources such as funding opportunities, a schedule of upcoming trainings and webinars, and more. Archive issues of the E-Harvest are available [here](#). **Subscribe today!**

Connect with your partners at TDA today at FarmFresh@TexasAgriculture.gov.

Resources

New! Income Eligibility Calculator

TDA F&N has released a mobile tool to assist CEs in making eligibility determinations when income is reported on the Household Application for Free and Reduced-Price Meals. The **Income Eligibility Calculator** can take up to 6 sources of income, standardize to annual income if necessary, and then provides the result. The determining officials do still need to ensure that the form is properly completed with all required information, such as the last four digits of the Social Security Number (SSN) or box marked if there is no SSN. This calculator can currently be accessed from the SquareMeals.org home page, as well as the Online Training page, and bookmarking the link on a mobile device is recommended.



2018 Summer Food Service Program Child Nutrition Guide

The Summer Food Service Program for Children: 2018 Nutrition Guide for Sponsors is now available on the USDA **Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) website**. This guide was developed to help sponsors plan and serve menus with a variety of nutrient-rich foods and beverages, and operate a safe and successful food service.

Approved Software for Use in School Meal Programs

FNS has approved new software programs this year, providing program operators with a choice of 19 nutrient analysis and 16 certification of compliance software approved by USDA.

USDA approves software for use in certification of compliance with the National School Lunch Program meal pattern requirements.

You can find the list of USDA-approved certification of compliance software [here](#).

USDA approves nutrient analysis software for use in conducting nutrient analyses for an Administrative Review. You may also use approved for nutrient analysis software for:

- nutrient analysis portion of six cent certification (certification of compliance) for lunch;
- nutrient analysis portion of six cent certification (certification of compliance) for breakfast; and
- nutrient analysis of recipes to ensure compliance with Smart Snack standards.

Note that FNS only considers USDA-approved nutrient analysis software an allowable cost to the non-profit school food service account.

You can find the list of USDA-approved nutrient analysis software [here](#).

USDA Foods Updates



USDA Foods (Brown Box) Allocation Schedule

Regular weekly allocations are run on Thursday afternoons. All allocated items will be available on Friday mornings, as well as any available surplus items.

TDA completed the first allocation for SY 2019 on August 16, 2018. No allocations will occur during the weeks of November 19-23 or December 17-21. The last allocation for SY 2019 will occur on May 9, 2019. Please review the Weekly Commodity Bulletin to monitor all future allocations.

[Previous Issue](#)



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