



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

July 2, 2018
CE Edition

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.



Whole Grain-Rich (WGR) Exemption Request Form

The Whole Grain-Rich (WGR) Exemption Request Form for SY 2018-2019 (Form ID SNP-112) is now available in TX-UNPS under Download Forms. NSLP Contracting Entities who would like to extend a WGR exemption from SY 2017-2018 or submit a new request will use the same form. Contracting Entities wishing to extend a request originally submitted prior to SY 2017-2018 will need to submit a new request. For example, a CE who requested an exemption for SY 2016-2017, then requested an extension for SY 2017-18, will need to submit a new request for SY 2018-2019.

Requests must be submitted by the Child Nutrition Director or Superintendent listed in the School Year 2018-2019 NSLP Contracting Entity Application in TX-UNPS.

Policy News



Revised ARM, Section 17

A revised ARM Section 17, *Procurement and the Buy American Checklist for Non-Domestic Food Product Purchases* have been posted and released.

You can find the ARM, ARM Update Guides and a complete searchable ARM on SquareMeals [here](#).

You can find the revised form in the School Nutrition Programs Forms table [here](#).

Please replace any previous version of ARM Section 17 and checklist that you may have saved.

Community Eligibility Provision end of Cycle Sample Letter to Households

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has posted a sample letter on the [Community Eligibility Provision Resource Center](#) that can be used by schools to explain the changes that households can expect and actions they should take when their child's school transitions from using the Community Eligibility Provision to standard counting and claiming.

Texas Farm Fresh Initiative

Congratulations to 2017 Farm Fresh Challenge Best of the Bunch Winners

Congratulations to all school districts that participated in the 2017 Farm Fresh Challenge. If your district received an award in person for the Best of the Bunch achievement, you can now request a copy of the picture with Assistant Commissioner for Food and Nutrition from your ESC. For all Best of the Bunch winners that were unable to attend the Farm Fresh Awards luncheon, please be on the lookout for your award in the mail in the next few weeks.



Registration now open for TDA's Farm Fresh Challenge

This October TDA encourages schools to Eat Local. Teach Local. 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 at

SquareMeals.org/FarmFreshChallenge. Participating schools will receive a toolkit of Farm Fresh Fridays supportive materials, including buttons, static clings and low tack stickers. Register by **August 15th** to ensure you receive your Farm Fresh Fridays materials before September 1.

NEW! Resource Available to Help Schools Share the Farm Fresh Celebration with Parents and Family Members

Share your Farm Fresh Challenge celebrations with parents and family members using a new printable resource on SquareMeals.org. This printable resource can be sent to family members via a digital download or as a backpack stuffer.

Learn more about the Farm Fresh Challenge and pledge participation [here](#).

Please reach out to TDA at FamFresh@TexasAgriculture.gov, with any questions or for additional information.

Copy Paste Promo Kit to Promote the Farm Fresh Challenge

Thank you for promoting the TDA's 2018 Farm Fresh Challenge. Use the **Copy Paste Promo Kit** to help build our statewide megaphone. Simply copy one of the messages in this kit into a newsletter, blog, listserv or message on any social media platform. Download high quality images from the graphics locker [here](#).

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 FamFresh@TexasAgriculture.gov.

Training Resources



Food Safety Resources

Food Safety Resources are available from the Institute of Child Nutrition. The resources provide specific information for schools and daycare centers as well as Food Safety Logs, SOP's etc. with manuals and resources available for download.

Free Resource from Texas Department of State Health Services

Consider subscribing to the Texas Department of State Health Services "Friday Beat", a biweekly newsletter that provides resources on school wellness, grants, food safety and nutrition resources. You can join free [here](#).

Previous Issue



By unsubscribing, be aware that this email address will no longer get required communication from TDA via this distribution method. It is up to the organization to find an alternative method of obtaining the information as your organization will still be responsible for all content contained in the communications.