

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.

March 26, 2018 SFA Edition

Attachments with this issue:

[SP11-2018 - Community Eligibility Provision...](#)
[Federal Register Posting - Farm to School Census...](#)
[USDA Summer Meals Newsletter for March](#)

Upcoming Child Nutrition Director and Business Official Meeting

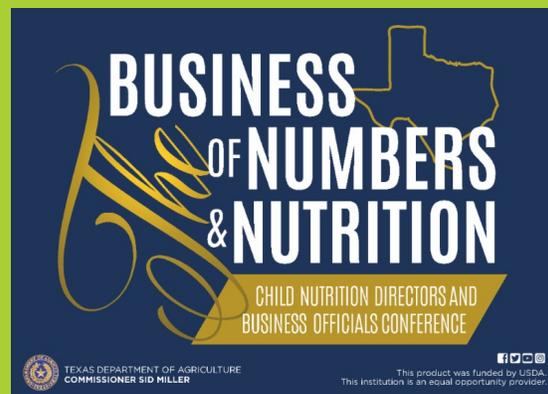
The Business of Numbers and Nutrition

Child Nutrition Director and Business Official Meeting

AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center -
Austin, TX
June 14th & 15th, 2018

Book your room [HERE](#).

Registration coming soon!



TX-UNPS Updates



Seamless Summer Option (SSO)

The SSO module (located under Site Applications) is now open and available in the 2017-2018 Application Packet. When processing SSO site applications, CEs must ensure that they also submit the application packet for approval as the last step of the submission process.

SSO site applications in Submitted status cannot be reviewed by TDA until the application packet is also in submitted status. Claims cannot be processed on unapproved site applications.

2018 Universal Breakfast Program Waiver

The Universal Breakfast Program Waiver application is now open!
The application period runs from March 15 – June 30, 2018!

School district campuses and open-enrollment charter schools participating in NSLP, in which 80 percent or more of the students qualify for a free or reduced-price breakfast, must offer a free breakfast to each student or seek a waiver from TDA required by Senate Bill 376. TDA has notified all mandated schools by mail in January 2018. CEs that are mandated to offer free breakfast to all students and wish to apply for a waiver should use the Universal Breakfast Waiver School Year 2018-2019 form through TXUNPS Download Forms (SNP-103). All waiver requests must be submitted by **June 30, 2018**. Please refer to the [Universal Breakfast page](#) for details and instructions or contact your [Education Service Center](#) for assistance.

Policy News

USDA Policy Memos

SP11-2018 - *Community Eligibility Provision: Statutory Annual Notification and Publication Requirements* is attached.

Federal Register Posting

Attached is the Federal Register Posting *Farm to School Census and Comprehensive Review - Notice and Request for Comments*. Written comments must be received on or before May 18, 2018.



Updated Guidance: Determining Eligibility for State-Funded Pre-Kindergarten School Year (SY) 2018-2019

For School Year (SY) 2018-2019, USDA has approved automatic free eligibility for all students attending state-funded pre-kindergarten programs operated under the administration of the Texas Education Agency Early Childhood Program. To determine eligibility for these students, contracting entities (CEs) will need to (1) obtain an enrollment list with the names of the enrolled students and official signature from the appropriate school district official or (2) verify the student's enrollment in the state-funded pre-kindergarten program participation if submitted on an application.

Reminder: Meal Accommodations and Special Dietary Requests

Administrator's Reference Manual (ARM), Section 13, Accommodating Students with Medical Disabilities and Special Dietary Needs has been updated to reflect current USDA guidance on meal accommodations for students with medical disabilities and request for special dietary accommodations. If a CE has not updated its processes and forms since May of 2017, the CE may be out of compliance. CEs should review this updated section to ensure that their responses to requests for a medical disability or a special dietary change are in compliance with regulation. TDA has also released forms and sample documents to assist CEs in this effort. While the use of these forms is not required, CEs should review their existing forms to ensure that they are in line with the TDA forms.

Clarification Guidance: Security Costs

Expenses for the protection and security of SNP facilities, personal, and work products including wages and uniforms of personnel engaged in security activities, equipment, barriers, and contracted services are allowable costs to the program. If the security staff, equipment, and other purchases are used by other programs in addition to the SNP, the proportion of cost specific to the SNP is an allowable cost.

Other News



HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSCC) Update

As part of USDA's commitment to ensure that all our programs are delivered efficiently and effectively, and to avoid duplicating the efforts of the private sector, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service will no longer be accepting applications for the HealthierUS School Challenge Award Program (HUSCC), effective July 1, 2018.

USDA recognizes the value the award program has had to our stakeholders and is committed to maintaining the program through the end of the 2017-2018 school year, so any applications submitted (postmarked or emailed) to the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) on or before June 30, 2018 will be reviewed for approval. If you have an application in process, please contact your ESC Nutrition Specialist. To begin an application, use the 2014 HUSCC online application found at the USDA website

[here.](#)

It is recommended that you complete, print and submit the application or scan it to your Education Service Center (ESC) by **April 30, 2018**. Please check with your ESC Nutrition Specialist to confirm that submission date and method and notify the Specialist that you are working on an application.

The ESC Nutrition Specialist will submit your application to TDA by **June 30, 2018**. Please do not submit your application directly to USDA; the guidance indicates that state agencies (TDA) must receive it by **June 30, 2018**.

Texas Farm Fresh Initiative

TDA Texas Farm Fresh Jump with Jill 2018 Live Tour! Accepting Applications Now!

Jump with Jill is back and Ready to Rock! In support of the Texas Farm Fresh Initiative, TDA is offering nutrition education assemblies, at no cost, to select elementary school campuses in Texas. [Click here](#) to access the application. Applications will be accepted through **April 13, 2018**.

Assemblies will be conducted during the months of September and October 2018, with focus in the regions of West Texas and the Upper Rio Grande; ESC regions 15, 18, and 19. All Contracting Entities (CEs) participating in the National School Lunch Program are encouraged to apply for this opportunity, regardless of region. Applications will be catalogued and reviewed for future tours.

To learn more about Jump with Jill, watch this [short video](#), visit the Farm Fresh Live Web page at SquareMeals.org/FarmFreshTour, or contact FarmFresh@TexasAgriculture.gov.



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. There are many [resources available online](#) to help you plan and implement successful Farm Fresh Fridays activities and participate in the Farm Fresh Challenge.

Register by **July 15th** to ensure you receive your Farm Fresh Fridays materials before September 1. Learn more about the **Farm Fresh Challenge** and [pledge participation here](#).

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

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

[Previous Issue](#)



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

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