

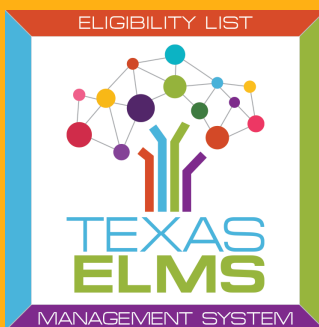
This information is to keep you informed of any changes in policies and procedures and of new communication originating from the State Office this month.

## October 22, 2018 CE Edition

### Attachments with this issue:

[SFSP 01-2019 - Summer Food Service Program Memoranda Rescission](#)

## Texas ELMS Update



### ***New Matches!***

Texas ELMS has been updated with new matches as of October 15th. Be sure to do an upload between now and October 31st to update the eligibility status for all possible direct certification students. Count day is October 31st.

Did you know that you can upload current enrollment into Texas ELMS more than once a month? There is no limit to the number of times that you can do an upload.

If you upload current enrollment on October 31st, that particular match report will be "captured" and archived for the SFA Verification Report. That is data that can be used for the Administrative Review and will be archived in Texas ELMS for 5 years.

## Policy News

### ***USDA and TDA Policy Updates***

**SFSP 01-2019 - Summer Food Service Program Memoranda Rescission** is attached. TDA is currently reviewing this memo and will be releasing guidance to assist CEs in implementing these changes.

**Revised ARM Section 11, Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) Meal Pattern for School Nutrition Program (SNP) Operators**, has been posted and released. TDA has also posted ARM Update Guide 2018-2019 which gives details about the revisions. TDA continues to post ARM Update Guide 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017, and 2017-2018 so CEs have access to revision made during those school years.

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



**2018 National School Lunch Week "Thank You"!**

An excerpt from the letter of appreciation from FNS regarding NSLW: "As the Food and Nutrition Service acknowledges the importance of school lunch this week, we are grateful for you – the hardworking folks that make NSLP successful. We appreciate your dedication, and our partnership, that aims to ensure that children across the country have the energy to live up to their full potential each school day." The entire letter can be accessed [here](#).

### **Additional Guidance: Negative Balance**

If a contracting entity (CE) has a negative balance for the operation of a single Child Nutrition Program (CNP), but the nonprofit school food service account has a zero or positive balance at the end of the year, the CE does not need to make the nonprofit school food service account whole for individual program losses.

### **Additional Guidance: Buy American**

USDA regulations provide guidance on the factors CEs must consider in determining if a product that does not meet the Buy American standards can be used by a School Nutrition Program (SNP). TDA provides guidance on these factors in the *Administrator's Reference Manual (ARM), Section 17, Procurement and Buy American Checklist for Non-Domestic Food Product Purchases* sample form. CEs are not required to use this sample form. However, all CEs are required to retain documentation demonstrating how the CE applied these factors to determine when purchasing a non-US product is allowable. USDA regulations do not permit the use of a list of pre-identified products that are automatically exempt from the Buy American provision, including the list described in 48 CFR 25.104.

### **Additional Guidance: Open to All, Afterschool Programs**

The use of open to all is not intended to stipulate that afterschool programs must serve every student that "drops in." The site can limit participation by operating a closed site—only those who are enrolled in the afterschool program can participate. Or the site can allow students to drop in, but limit participation to students who are currently in attendance at the school. However, a school site cannot limit participation to a select group of students based on extra-curricular participation, i.e., student athletes only or band students only.

### **Reminder: Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)**

When the student population for an individual site operating CEP or a group of sites operating CEP changes significantly, the ISP must be recalculated for the individual site or group of sites. See the *Administrator's Reference Manual (ARM), Section 5, Special Provisions Options* for detailed guidance on this topic.

## Texas Farm Fresh Initiative



### **Now Open! TDA Grant Opportunity to Expand Farm Fresh Fridays in Schools!**

Are you looking for ways to expand farm to school activities? The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is now accepting applications for the Expanding the 3E's Nutrition Education Grant (X3E). Texas schools will receive up to \$10,000 per school campus or up to \$50,000 per district! Grant recipients will use the grant funds to offer more Farm Fresh activities, including school gardens, field trips to farms, and nutrition education. Applications must be received by December 6, 2018. For details, please visit TDA's [Grants page](#) to learn more. For information about farm to school activities, visit [FarmFreshFriday.org](#). Read success stories from past grantees at [SquareMeals.org/TexasFarmFresh](#) #FarmFreshTexas.

### **New! Cooking for the Seasons Cookbook**

*Cooking for the Seasons Cookbook* is now available to make seasonal cooking and eating easy! Chef created and kid approved recipes in *Cooking for the Seasons* will make cooking and eating seasonally in the NSLP easy and delicious. View this [online cookbook](#) to get inspiration for the changing seasons and to serve more Texas foods in meals and snacks.

### **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](mailto:FarmFresh@TexasAgriculture.gov).

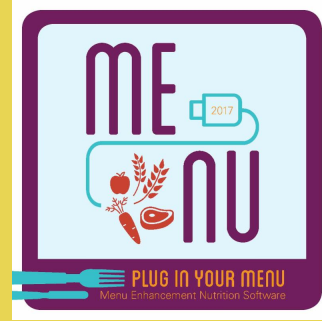
## MENU Module Spotlight

### **Region 13 Emphasizes Follow-up**

TDA is gathering reports from ESC specialists regarding their successes and challenges in MENU Module outreach and implementation. Kelly Waldron, ESC Region 13 chef and program specialist, shared some great tips on how Region 13 is assisting CEs. First, Kelly calls a contracting entity (CE) if she sees that they have discontinued their module trainings. By reaching out, ESC specialists can assist in removing any barriers CEs might encounter in their MENU training. ESC Region

13 also hosts open lab hours in the classroom after their MENU classes conclude. The CE can immediately implement what they learned in the class before returning to their office. If you are considering open lab hours, remind the CEs to have an updated FND-101 form so they have access to their MENU module. Currently, ESC Region 13 has 47 percent of their CEs with MENU Module access.

Please send your information about best practices for MENU outreach to [tda.menu@texasagriculture.gov](mailto:tda.menu@texasagriculture.gov).



## USDA Foods Update



### ***USDA Foods for Further Processing***

After November 30, 2018, TDA will apply the Carryover Sweep of excess inventory of USDA Foods for further processing to comply with USDA regulations. Within the process, TDA will apply a formula to identify the amount of Carryover pounds (previous program year inventory) to be swept and provide CE's enough pounds to complete the school year, based on average monthly usage rates.

CEs with zero usage or remaining pounds that cannot produce one case of an End Product from Carryover pounds will be swept 100%.

If a CE has experienced a unique situation (act of Mother Nature, fire, cooler/freezer failure, etc....) which kept them from drawing down their inventory in a timely manner, the CE may contact TDA directly at [commodityoperations@texasagriculture.gov](mailto:commodityoperations@texasagriculture.gov) by COB, **November 5, 2018** with details. Decisions are made on a case by case basis.

Please work with your respective Processor and/or Distributor to order your product.

### ***Frequently Asked Questions:***

**Q:** Will I lose any of my current allocations?

**A:** No. Only Carryover inventory is subject to being swept, not current allocations.

**Q:** If a CE has more than 6 Months on Hand of inventory, will the amount above 6 months be swept?

**A:** No. High inventory levels of current allocations will be addressed at a later date and the CE will be notified of low usage with a request to drawdown or willingly release the pounds to the Texas State Account

**Q:** If a CE has zero usage will the Carryover Sweep method apply?

**A:** Only if a CE has zero usage of Carryover inventory will the Carryover Sweep apply.

Previous Issue



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

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