



LAURA BENAVIDEZ

**Texas Department of Agriculture
Administrator for Food and Nutrition**

Laura Benavidez serves as a Food and Nutrition Administrator for the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) Food and Nutrition Division. She oversees compliance for the National School Lunch Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program and other federal nutrition programs administered by TDA.

Laura's experience includes over 20 years in school nutrition, including 16 years in two large urban school districts: Los Angeles Unified School District and Boston Public Schools. Laura's experience covers operations, logistics and procurement. Her 20-year career in the food services industry has equipped her with the knowledge of all aspects of business but also a focus on customer service and marketing and strategic planning. Over the years, she has been responsible for both logistics (menu, inventory, technology) and operations, managing supervisory teams over each area.

Laura is committed to child nutrition and the continuation of providing access to meals for the children and families of Texas. She has a Bachelor of Science in Food Science and Technology with a minor in Nutrition from Texas A&M University and a Master's Degree in Business Administration with a focus on organizational behavior. She currently resides in Austin with her husband and children.