

Local Food for Schools

February 12, 2025

Office Hours

Tiffany Lankford, Nutrition Specialist

Christie Beaulieu, Nutrition Grants Specialist

Brendan Sweeney- Grants Specialist



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

Fraud Hotline: 1-866-5-FRAUD-4 or 1-866-537-2834 | P.O. Box 12847 | Austin, TX 78711

Toll Free: (877) TEX-MEAL | For the hearing impaired: (800) 735-2989 (TTY)

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Updated 2/14/2025
www.SquareMeals.org



Food and Nutrition Division
Nutrition Assistance Programs

Meeting Agenda

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Updates & Announcements

02

Reimbursements

03

FAQ's

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Questions

Grant Updates



Jefferson ISD-McCurry
Farms

LFS Resources

LFS Resources on SquareMeals

- www.squaremeals.org/LFS

LFS Vendor Resource List

- *Updated list of vendors used by grant recipients is posted on our website. It is not required to use these vendors; if interested in pursuing procurement from any of the vendors listed, follow federal, state, and local regulations*

Grantee Fund amount and reimbursement

- *List of grantees and the amount awarded as well as how much reimbursement requested to date – updated monthly*



Announcements



Florence ISD– Common Market

School Food Procurement Survey

What is it?

10-minute survey for school business officials

Why should I take it?

- Helps improve school food procurement nationwide
- Help improve tools, training, and rule changes

Click [HERE](#) to complete this important survey through February 26th

Healthy Meal Incentives (HMI)



HMI Recognition Awards

- 8 Categories – Awarded on rolling basis
- **Applications close June 30, 2025**
- Visit HMI Homepage: healthymealsincentives.org
- www.squaremeals.org/HMI

Consider the Innovation in Nutrition Education since 1 of the 2 requirements are met with LFS participation!

Breakfast Trailblazer

Lunch Trailblazer

Innovative School Lunch Makeover

Innovation in the Preparation of School Meals

Small and/or Rural Breakfast Trailblazer

Small and/or Rural Lunch Trailblazer

Innovation in the Cultural Diversity of School Meals

Innovation in Nutrition Education ★

Reimbursements



Lumberton ISD – Moore Honey

Reimbursements

- Reimbursed \$10,766,474 of \$22,311,051
- 48% of total funds reimbursed with only 1 month remaining
- Pending \$2.8 million

CE's with 0 Reimbursement Requests

ADRIAN ISD
BARTLETT ISD
BEN BOLT-PALITO BLANCO ISD
BLANCO ISD
BRAZOSPORT ISD
CENTER ISD
CHAPEL HILL ISD-TYLER
COMANCHE ISD
DAMON ISD
EAST FORT WORTH MONTESSORI ACADEMY
ECTOR ISD
GARNER ISD
GATEWAY CHARTER ACADEMY
HULL-DAISETTA ISD
JASPER ISD
JIM HOGG COUNTY ISD
KELTON ISD
KIRBYVILLE ISD
LINDSAY ISD

LONGVIEW ISD
MCALLEN ISD
PAINT CREEK ISD
PATTON SPRINGS ISD
PAWNEE ISD
PEWITT CONS ISD
PLEMONS-STINNETT-PHILLIPS
PRAIRILAND ISD
PRESIDIO ISD
RIESEL ISD
SAN ISIDRO ISD
SANTA ANNA ISD
SHARYLAND ISD
SIERRA BLANCA ISD
SOUTH TEXAS EDUCATIONAL TECH

STRATFORD ISD
TEXAS SAN MARCOS
TREATMENT CENTER
THREE RIVERS ISD
THREE WAY ISD
TIOGA ISD
VALLEY VIEW ISD-PHARR
VANGUARD ACADEMY
WAELDER ISD
WEBB CONSOLIDATED ISD
WORTHAM ISD

Reimbursement Updates

Important Deadlines

1. Last day to make LFS purchases – **March 31, 2025**
2. Last day to submit LFS reimbursement requests – **May 9, 2025**

Notifications

- Email approval will be sent when Finance approves, the link to the Smartsheet won't allow you access.
- Reimbursement should be received within 60 days of Finance approval

Video Training on Reimbursement Process

- Available on webpage under LFS Resources
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B9Odue7mrRI>



Best Practices

- **Submit the Payment Request Form in excel spreadsheet**
- **Consolidate reimbursement requests if it's the same vendor**
- **Bank statements aren't required**
- **Submit photos and recipes**
- **Provide proof that the vendor has local products**
- **For payment information check out: [Comptroller's Search State Payments Issued website](#)**

FAQ'S



Lake Travis ISD– Common Market

FAQ's

Q: Has a payment been deposited from TDA?

You can view all deposits from TDA and other state agencies using Comptroller's Website

Q: How can I check my remaining balance?

A: On our website under *LFS Resources*. You will also receive notification once finance approves your reimbursement requests, which includes your remaining balance.

Q: Where can I find local vendors?

A: On our webpage, there is a list of vendors previous CEs have used

Questions?



Lexington ISD-Gilmore Beef and Cattle

Contact Us



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Portal: [Reimbursement Form](#)

TDA LFS Website: www.squaremeals.org/LFS



Farm Fresh Network: www.squaremeals.org/FarmFreshNetwork

Comptroller Vendor List: <https://mycpa.cpa.state.tx.us/tpasscdblsearch/>

Food and Nutrition: www.SquareMeals.org



LocalFoodGrant@texasagriculture.gov

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1. **mail:**
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. **fax:**
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. **email:**
program.intake@usda.gov

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