



Policy Update

June 25, 2025

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TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

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Food and Nutrition Division
Nutrition Assistance Programs



Updated 6/30/2025
www.SquareMeals.org

01

SY 25-26
PLE Tool



Paid Lunch Equity (PLE)

PLE Tool

Flexibility for SY 2025 – 2026

- SFAs with zero or positive balances in their nonprofit food service accounts as of **June 30, 2024** do not have to complete PLE.
- SFAs with negative balances in their nonprofit food service accounts as of **June 30, 2024** must complete PLE.
- ARM Section 19, Meal Pricing

SY 25-26 PLE Tool released!

<https://squaremeals.org/Programs/National-School-Lunch-Program/Administration-Forms>



02

Final Rule to Revise Nutrition Standards: Snacks



Final Rule to Revise Nutrition Standards

Flexibilities

Final Rule - Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/school-nutrition-standards-updates>

Flexibilities effective July 1, 2024:

- Meat/Meat Alternates at Breakfast (Section 8)
- Substituting Vegetables for Fruits at Breakfast (Section 8)
- Crediting of Nuts and Seeds (Sections 7, 8, 9)
- Beans, Peas, and Lentils at Lunch (Section 8)
- Bean Dips Exempt in Smart Snacks (Section 22)
- Geographic Preference as a Procurement Specification (Section 17)
- Buy American “FAR List” (Section 17b)

Final Rule to Revise Nutrition Standards

Snacks

Effective July 1, 2025

- Aligns the Afterschool Care Program (ASCP) meal pattern with the CACFP snack meal pattern.
- Splits combined fruit/vegetable component into separate components.
- Must serve at least two components.



03

**Coming Soon -
ARM
Release**



Administrator's Reference Manual (ARM)

Stay Tuned!
New Release Soon

<https://squaremeals.org/Programs/National-School-Lunch-Program/Policy-ARM>

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2. fax:

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3. email:

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