

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NATIONAL SCHOOL

3E'S OF HEALTHY LIVING
EDUCATION, EXERCISE AND EATING RIGHT

Lunch Program

November 2023 Monthly Newsletter



Resources

Click [here](#) for recordings and slides from past School Webinars.

Click [here](#) for archived program newsletters.

Next School Webinar - Wednesday Nov. 29 at 2 p.m.

Local Food for Schools Reimbursement Training

Friday, November 3 - 2:30-3 p.m. CST

For schools that have opted in for the Texas Local Food for Schools grant, please attend the Reimbursement Training to learn more about the award reimbursement process and information regarding the Local Foods for Schools opportunity. Click [here](#) to attend or visit SquareMeals.org/LFS to access the meeting link..

New Milk Flexibility for Emergency

Conditions Notification Form

Considering recent milk supply chain issues due to packaging shortages, TDA is using the discretion provided by federal regulation to allow Program operators to serve and claim meals without fluid milk or with an alternate form of fluid milk during this temporary emergency period. To utilize the flexibility, Contracting Entities (CEs) affected by the recent shortage must submit the newly released Milk Flexibility for Emergency Conditions Notification Form as soon as possible.

Now Available: Offer versus Serve Materials in Spanish!

The Spanish versions of the Offer versus Serve (OVS) materials for school nutrition programs are now available online. The OVS materials include five posters and two tip sheets. These tools help students more quickly select reimbursable meals in the breakfast and lunch lines and provide guidance for school nutrition professionals for breakfast and lunch meal service. Access the Spanish-translated OVS materials [here](#).

New Micro-Purchase Logs Now Available for CACFP and SFSP

TDA has revised the Micro-Purchase Log, previously designed specifically for NSLP CEs, so that CACFP and SFSP CEs can also use it to track informal micro-purchases throughout the Program Year. The form is available on each Program's Administration/Forms page within the Forms table.



Check Out These New Recipes!

TDA has developed three school standardized recipes in collaboration with the Culinary Institute of America-San Antonio, Florence ISD and Salado ISD child nutrition programs. Each recipe features local Texas agricultural products and meets the nutritional standards for the National School Lunch Program and was student approved!

Healthy Meals Incentives Recognition Awards

The Healthy Meals Incentives Recognition Awards spotlight school's innovative practices and efforts in improving the nutritional quality of their school meals. Interested in applying? Awardees receive national recognition, a digital toolkit, and travel stipend to a National Healthy Meals Summit! Visit SquareMeals.org/HMI to learn more.

National School Lunch Week 2023 - Recap

Thank you for celebrating NSLW 2023 with TDA, [click here](#) to view success stories on how schools across Texas helped students "Level Up with School Lunch"! Please remember to [take our survey](#) and assist TDA in the planning and development of resources for NSLW 2024!

Verification Timeline

The verification process began on October 1, 2023, and ends on November 15, 2023. The Verification Report is due on November 28, 2023. Prepare for SY23-24 school year by accessing Verification Reporting Resources [here](#). CEs operating standard counting and claiming, Universal Free feeding, RCCIs with day students, and Provision 2 in the base year must conduct verification. All CEs must complete the required Verification Report. The Verification Report is in jotform, and can be found in TX-UNPS, in the application packet, and under Download Forms: SNP-123. The Verification Report is due to TDA on November 28, 2023. Click the headline for more information.

FSMC Contract Timelines

[Click here](#) for the Food Service Management Company Contract submittal and approval timelines.

USDA Foods Ordering Updates

- Total Lunches Served (Meal Count) which will adjust entitlement provided is expected to be completed by the end of October. TDA is awaiting USDA to update numbers

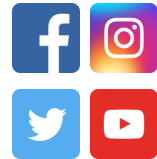


for PY23 and will communicate to schools once the update is complete.

- The weighted average price adjustment for further processing and Farm to School has been completed in TX-UNPS
- TDA is continuing WBSCM system set up for SY 24-25 Recipient Agency (RA) User Access and Roles.
- WBSCM system set up: RA Organizations have been set up for all RAs that said “yes” to question A25 in the SNP packet.
- The October USDA Foods Survey is available for RAs to provide feedback on what USDA Foods items they want available in the SY 24-25 catalog. The deadline to submit responses is November 3.
- TDA will be processing the DoD JotForm Opt-In responses from schools to establish funds set aside for the DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetables program.



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