

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

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

## July 2022 Monthly Newsletter

### Events, Trainings and Resources

#### [Resources Now Available to Promote 'Back to Student Meal Rates' this Fall](#)

This Fall, 'Back to School' will also mean 'Back to Student Meal Rates' for Nutritious School Meals. As schools transition back to requiring family applications for free and reduced-price meals to meet USDA requirements, CE's can use TDA resources to inform families of student meal rate changes. [Click here for communication resources.](#)



#### [Place Your Order for 2022 National School Lunch Week Materials Today!](#)

This year's National School Lunch Week (NSLW) takes place October 10th – 14th. TDA is offering schools printed and digital materials featuring the theme Gear Up for a Healthy School Lunch to help boost participation! This year's artwork is inspired by the winning entries from the You Art What You Eat statewide student art contest. Combining TDA resources with a school nutrition team's creativity produces special celebrations that engage students, staff and communities. [Click here or the title link](#) above to order no cost materials and learn about how to make your NSLW a healthy event that everyone enjoys! Supplies are limited so order today!

#### [The Food Service Management Company \(FSMC\) Quick Reference Guide is Now Available!](#)

This document summarizes the procurement requirements and regulations for Texas CE's that contract with FSMCs to assist with providing meals for school nutrition programs.

#### [Summer Outreach Materials - Order Today!](#)

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) has developed no-cost, online resources and printed materials you can use to promote the availability of these meals for families in need. Please visit [www.SummerFood.org/OutreachTools](http://www.SummerFood.org/OutreachTools) to order no-cost, print materials today!

#### [Now Accepting 2022 Turnip the Beet Recognition Award Nominations](#)

The Turnip the Beet Award recognizes outstanding Summer Meal Program sponsors serving appetizing, appealing, and nutritious meals. For more resources, including 2022 Nomination Form, Turnip the Beet Resource Guide, and deadlines, visit TDA's Turnip the Beet page.

#### [2022 National School Lunch Week Digital Resources!](#)

Start planning for National School Lunch Week (NSLW) 2022 early with the Texas Department of Agriculture's no cost downloadable resources. TDA encourages schools to offer special menu items throughout the week. Creative menu items help increase student participation and decrease menu fatigue. For new recipe ideas, use TDA's downloadable NSLW 2022 menu with creative theme names ready to become student favorites. Suggested menu items include: First Place Pastas, Engine Roaring Enchiladas, Checkered Flag Chili & Combread, Race Day Rice Dish, and Finish Line Flatbread.

Visit [www.SquareMeals.org/NSLW](http://www.SquareMeals.org/NSLW) to download TDA's NSLW 2022 themed menu and additional resources coming soon such as morning announcements, social media packet, parent informational handout and more.

#### [NEW Meal Pattern Support for SY 22-23 Squaremeals Page](#)

The Texas Department of Agriculture added a new Meal Pattern Support for SY 22-23 page with policy, meal planning for whole-grain rich items and reduced sodium meals, and supply chain issue resources.

#### [New! Food Buying Guide Mobile App Training Videos!](#)

Team Nutrition is excited to announce that training videos on navigating the Food Buying Guide (FBG) Mobile App are now available. These short videos are broken into four chapters to provide users with step-by-step instructions on using the Mobile App and its different components.

### Deadlines

#### [Review This Month's Program Calendar Due Dates](#)

For upcoming deadlines, see the Program Year Calendar.

#### [Claim Deadline Reminder](#)

May and June claims are due. Claim deadline for May is July 30th. Don't delay, submit claims timely!



### Policy Updates and Compliance Reminders

#### [Transitioning Back to Paid Meals in School Year 2022-2023](#)

This Fall, 'Back to School' will also mean 'Back to Student Meal Rates' for nutritious school meals. TDA has created resources to assist with notifying parents about this shift.



#### [Flexibilities in the Keep Kids Fed Act during School Year 2022-2023](#)

The Keep Kids Fed Act passed on June 27, 2022, will allow higher reimbursements for meals, meal pattern flexibilities in the event of COVID-19-related supply chain issues, and other flexibilities still to be determined in School Year 2022-2023.

#### [New School Year 2022-2023 Frequently Asked Questions Now Available](#)

TDA has published the first version of the School Year 2022-2023 Frequently Asked Questions document that outlines transitional operational requirements and flexibilities in the new school year. The FAQ doc is located at [here](#). Please check the FAQs frequently, as TDA expects additional guidance and flexibilities from USDA as the new school year approaches.

#### [Local Wellness Policy Flexibility for School Year 2022-2023 – Request Form is LIVE](#)

TDA was given the discretion to allow NSLP/SBP CE's to complete their first triennial Local Wellness Policy assessment by June 30, 2023. CE's planning to use the new deadline must inform TDA by July 15, 2022, via request form available on the Intake Forms page of SquareMeals.org.

#### [Civil Rights Training Migrating to ICN](#)

Effective May 15, 2022, the annual Civil Rights training that meets USDA Child Nutrition Program requirements as mandated in FNS Instruction 113-1, 2021, is exempt from the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) rather than TDA. New users must register with ICN, and ICN will issue completion certificates. Starting May 15, 2022, the online training and instructions for taking ICN classes can be found [here](#).

#### [30-Day Carryover Flexibilities for School Year 2022-2023 – Request Form is LIVE](#)

Schools that operated the Seamless Summer Option in School Year 2021-2022 will be permitted to use a prior year's data for 30-day carryover, depending on how or if they processed household applications in SY 2021-2022 or SY 2020-2021. CE's planning to use this flexibility must notify TDA by October 15, 2022, via request form available on the Intake Forms page of SquareMeals.org.

#### [Paid Lunch Equity Flexibilities for School Year 2022-2023 – Request Form is LIVE](#)

USDA announced new PLE flexibilities for SY 2022-2023. Any NSLP CE with a positive or zero balance in its nonprofit school food service account as of December 31, 2021, is exempt from PLE pricing requirements for SY 2022-2023. Additionally, USDA is exempting CE's with a negative nonprofit food service account balance as of December 31, 2021, from raising meal prices in accordance with PLE requirements. CE's with a negative balance planning to use this flexibility must notify TDA via request form available on the Intake Forms page of SquareMeals.org.

#### [Severe Need Reimbursements for School Year 2022-2023](#)

As schools return to normal operations, CE's that operated SSO during SY 2020-2021 may not have the complete data needed to determine eligibility for severe need breakfast and lunch reimbursements in SY 2022-2023. These CE's may use the most beneficial claims data going back to SY 2019-2020 to qualify for severe need, as outlined in this article.

#### [TX-UNPS FDP Upgrade Coming in 2023/2024](#)

The ordering functions in the TX-UNPS FDP module for NSLP and SFSP will transition to USDA's Web-Based Supply Chain Management (WBSCM) system.

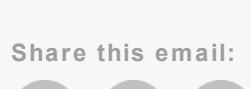


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