Events, Training and Resources

**TDA Roll Call Update**

Last month, there was an agency-wide call to discuss reimagining TDA’s regional structure and ensure that our service delivery model is reflective of the needs of our partners and our constituents. Our team is working hard to ensure that our services are delivered in a way that is efficient and effective.

**Release of New School Data Report**

The Texas Department of Education (TDE) has released new data on school performance and other metrics. This data includes information on student achievement, graduation rates, and other key indicators. The information is available online and can be accessed through the TDE’s website.

**Updated Income Eligibility Guidelines for 2022-2023**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced the annual adjustments to the Income Eligibility Guidelines to be used in determining eligibility for free and reduced-price meals and free milk for the period from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. These guidelines are used by schools, institutions, and facilities participating in USDA’s National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Summer Food Service Program.

**NSLP Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains and Sodium**

The Food and Nutrition Service’s Office of Program Integrity (OPI) is excited to announce the release of the new rule establishing standards for milk, whole grains, and sodium for school years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. This new rule establishes standards for milk, whole grains, and sodium for school years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. These standards are intended to promote healthy eating and reduce obesity among school-aged children.

**Financial Report Update**

The January Financial Report will open March 1 for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Don’t delay, submit claims timely! January and February claims are due. Claim deadline for March claims is March 31.

**Reminder of the User Access Manager**

TDA is transitioning to the User Access Manager for all entities and will no longer be accepting the FND-101 form soon. The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is transitioning to the User Access Manager for all entities and will no longer be accepting the FND-101 form soon. This is to help ensure that all users have the same access to our systems and that our processes are standardized.

**Policy Updates and Compliance Reminders**

**SFSP Statewide virtual training**

TDA will host a statewide virtual SFSP training on March 11, 2022 1:00-2:00pm. Attendees will have the chance to ask questions and hear from panelists from Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) and Texas Office of School Nutrition (TOSN) about the School Food Service Program (SFSP). The training will cover important topics such as program eligibility, site requirements, and program operations.

**Summer Meals Kick Off and Spike Events Planning Webinar**

The Food and Nutrition Service’s Office of Program Integrity (OPI) is excited to announce the release of the Summer Meals Kick Off and Spike Events Planning Webinar. This webinar will be held on March 11, 2022 1:00-2:00pm. Attendees will have the chance to ask questions and hear from panelists who have been successful in planning summer meals programs.

**Summer Materials are on the Way to Assist with School’s Meeting the USDA Federal Program Requirements**

Summer materials are on the way to assist with schools’ meeting the USDA federal program requirements. These materials are being delivered to schools in alternative locations. Program operators may adopt to assist with proper meal counting and claiming when meals are served in alternative locations. The tip sheet provides a list of suggested practices that can be adopted to assist with proper meal counting and claiming when meals are served in alternative locations.

**Bring the HART program to your district by helping the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) recruit student government and community leaders**

Bring the HART program to your district by helping the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) recruit student government and community leaders. The program operators can help you in fulfilling a National School Lunch Program requirement.

**Take the Fall Farm Fresh Challenge!**

Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller is launching the Fall Farm Fresh Challenge! The challenge aims to increase the amount of locally grown fruits and vegetables served in schools. Participants will have the opportunity to order new fall farm fresh materials to assist them in meeting the requirement.

**IMPORTANT – Join Us for SFSP Live!**

TDA will host a multi-program mega conference in Austin, May 2-6. You’ll get updates on regulations and policies, learn about ways to improve your program evaluation and data analysis, make connections with others who have similar interests, and more! Be ready for summer operations! View the description and registration for SFSP Live.