

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NATIONAL SCHOOL

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

March 2022 Monthly Newsletter

Events, Trainings and Resources

[A Special School Breakfast Week Message from Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller](#)

Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller celebrates School Breakfast Week with a video message for school staff, students, and parents. Don't forget to share pictures of what your school is doing to celebrate at #TXSBW..



[Take the Fall Farm Fresh Challenge!](#)

Registration for the NSLP Fall Farm Fresh Challenge is now open. Pledge your participation today and begin planning procurement of local Texas items!

[Register for MegaCon 2022](#)

Join TDA for this multi-program mega conference in Austin, May 2-6. You'll get updates on regulations and guidance, interact with peers and TDA staff, attend interactive training sessions, and find new ways to achieve program success!

[IMPORTANT – Join Us for SFSP Live!](#)

Be ready for summer operations! View the [SFSP Statewide virtual training](#) description and registration information. SFSP training is a requirement for new SFSP operators.

[TDA Now Accepting Health Ambassador for a Ready Texas \(HART\) Application](#)

Bring the HART program to your district by helping the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) recruit student health ambassadors for the program. HART students champion school meals, Texas agriculture, healthy lifestyles and more. The one-of-a-kind initiative is a great fit for high school leaders excited about promoting

good nutrition and fighting food insecurity. If you know any of these students spread the word and ask them to apply today.

Action Required: Important Summer Change (New Texting Number 304-304)

As of February 1, 2022, all summer meal materials (printed and digital) must be recycled. The texting line participants contact has changed. All resources on www.SummerFood.org/OutreachTools have been updated. Summer sponsors and sites will be given the opportunity to order new summer materials very soon and schools should currently be receiving summer materials to assist them with meeting the federal requirement.

Summer Materials are on the Way to Assist with School's Meeting the USDA Requirement

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is sending posters and information cards to every school food authority (SFA) in Texas to assist them in fulfilling a National School Lunch Program requirement to notify students and their families about the availability of these summer meals. The posters must be displayed on campus and the information cards must be distributed to each student immediately upon the shipment's arrival..

Summer Meals Events Webinar March 11, 2022 1:00-2:00pm!

Register today to attend the Summer Meals Kick Off and Spike Events Planning Webinar on March 11, 2022 1:00-2:00pm. Attendees will have the chance to ask questions and hear from panelists from schools, community organizations, and state partners who have been successful in planning summer kickoff and spike events. [Click here to register!](#) We can't wait to see you there!

Tips for Maintaining Integrity in Meals Served Outside the Cafeteria

The Food and Nutrition Service's Office of Program Integrity (OPI) is excited to announce the release of a tip sheet to assist school meals program operators in strengthening integrity during meal services held in locations other than the cafeteria. The tip sheet provides a list of suggested practices that program operators may adopt to assist with proper meal counting and claiming when meals are served in alternative locations.

Deadlines

Review This Month's Program Calendar Due Dates

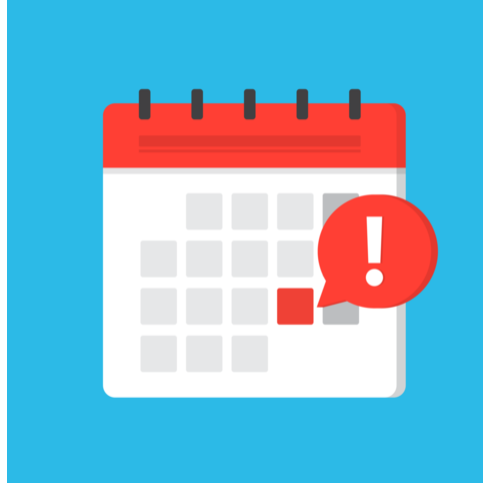
For upcoming deadlines, see the Program Year Calendar.

Claim Deadline Reminder

January and February claims are due. Claim deadline for January is April 1st. Don't delay, submit claims timely!

Reminder of the User Access Manager Transition

TDA is transitioning to the User Access Manager for all entities and will no longer be accepting the FND-101 form soon.



Policy Updates and Compliance Reminders

Financial Report Update

The Financial Report will open March 1 for fiscal year 2020-2021 and is due by March 31.



Universal Breakfast Program Waivers

The Universal Breakfast Program Waiver application opens on March 15.

NSLP Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains and Sodium Final Rule

This new rule establishes standards for milk, whole grains, and sodium for school years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 to give schools time to transition in the short term.

Updated Income Eligibility Guidelines for 2022-2023

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 the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Summer Food Service Program.

RELEASE: New School Data Report for 2021-2022

TDA must, on an annual basis, publish a list of schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) in which at least one-half of the children enrolled are certified eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

Monthly Highlights

[Register Now for USDA's Meal Talk Webinars: 3/9/22 @ 2PM CT on School Breakfast](#)

For upcoming deadlines, see the Program Year Calendar.

[Celebrate National Nutrition Month with Printed Resources for Team Nutrition Schools](#)

USDA's Team Nutrition initiative invites Team Nutrition Schools to join them in celebrating National Nutrition Month and School Breakfast Week by offering free printed materials that are available to order while supplies last.

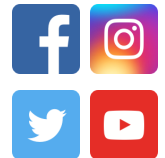
[You Art What You Eat Contest Now Closed](#)

Thank you to schools that submitted entries for TDA's You Art What You Eat Contest. The submission deadline was March 4, 2021. TDA will accept no submissions after the deadline..



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

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