

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# NATIONAL SCHOOL

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

*Lunch Program*

## January 2026 Monthly Newsletter

---

### Increase to the Micro-purchase Threshold

On October 1, the Office of Management and Budget increased the micro-purchase threshold from \$10,000 to \$15,000. Effective immediately, all Organizations (formerly known as Contracting Entities) can use this higher threshold when using the micro-purchase method of procurement. All handbooks will be updated soon to reflect this new threshold. All other procurement requirements remain unchanged.

---

### Annual NSLP Financial Report

**The Annual NSLP Financial Report opens on January 5, 2026, and closes March 27, 2026.** School food authorities (SFAs) will use data from school year 2024-2025 to complete this report.

If the Annual NSLP Financial Report identifies an excess fund balance of the SFA's six-month average operating expenses, the SFA must complete an Excess Net Cash Resource Plan and submit to [School.Operations@TexasAgriculture.gov](mailto:School.Operations@TexasAgriculture.gov).

The Excess Net Cash Resource Plan can be found [here](#).

Click the headline to view the [full article](#).

---

### Call for Recipes!

One of the most common things CEs request is more recipes. TDA has heard the requests and is seeking recipe submissions from Texas school districts and childcare providers to share. If you have recipes your students love that you'd like to share, [please submit them and a photo here](#).

---

## [Processing Inventory Schedule](#)

**Annual Transfer Exercise** - To begin the new year, the Annual Transfer Exercise will launch on Thursday, January 1, and run through April 15, helping to reduce processors' overall inventories and state accounts. This exercise occurs annually to alleviate excess inventory from processor and school district accounts by redistributing pounds for drawdown use. School districts requesting or transferring pounds will conduct the change via [SmartSheet](#) starting Thursday, January 1, 2026.

Click the headline to view the [full article](#).

---

## [USDA Foods Ordering Updates](#)

January's important USDA Foods updates for schools include information and resources to help prepare for PY27 ordering with resources and ESC support.

Click [here](#) to see the USDA Foods Ordering Updates for January.

---

## [RELEASE: Revised Excess Net Cash Resources Plan for School Nutrition Program Operators](#)

TDA has revised and published the Excess Net Cash Resources Plan template to clarify that TDA's signature on a submitted form indicates a cursory review of the form was completed and does not reflect an approval of all procurements listed by the School Food Authority on the form. All procurement, including capital expenditure requests, must comply with federal regulations and TDA guidance.

The revised form is located on the [NSLP Administration/Forms page](#) on SquareMeals.

---

## [January TANS Talk!](#)

Thank you for taking some time to join and participate in our **January** TANS Talk webinar. [Click here](#) to find a recap presentation of the talking points that were discussed and a video recording of the webinar.

You can also find **January's** TANS Talk video recording and PowerPoint slides on [SquareMeals](#) under "**TANS Updates**."

---



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
**COMMISSIONER SID MILLER**



Fraud Hotline: 1-866-5-FRAUD-4 or 1-866-537-2834 | P.O. Box 12847 | Austin, TX 78711  
Toll Free: (877) TEX-MEAL | For the hearing impaired: (800) 735-2989 (TTY)

This product was funded by USDA. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt Out](#) using TrueRemove™  
Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.  
View this email [online](#).

1700 North Congress 11th Floor | Austin, TX 78701 US

This email was sent to .  
*To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.*

emma®

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.