

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# NATIONAL SCHOOL

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

## April 2022 Monthly Newsletter

### Events, Trainings and Resources

#### [2022 School Breakfast Week Follow Up Survey](#)

TDA wants to hear from you. Fill out the SBW Follow Up Survey on the SquareMeals SBW webpage to share School Breakfast Week successes and provide feedback TDA can use to make School Breakfast Week 2023 better!



#### [Monthly Newsletter Survey. We want Your Feedback!](#)

Please take some time to participate in our TDA Monthly Newsletter survey. We would like to gain insight into your experience when reading and receive the newsletter(s) so we can make any needed improvements. [Click here](#) to access the survey.

#### [Deadline for MegaCon Registration Approaching](#)

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! The deadline for registration is April 27th, 2022.

#### [Upcoming SFSP LIVE! Statewide Training!](#)

ESCs statewide will offer virtual training April 13-14, 2022. View course information, agenda and registration information on SquareMeals. This Year's Theme - Summer (Food) Lovin'... Tell me more, Tell me more! Links to more details about the 2-day session and registration information [here](#).

#### [HART Applications Now Open- Share with Staff and Students](#)

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.

### **Transitional Standards Webinar Recordings Now Available!**

The Transitional Standards for Milk, Sodium, and Whole Grains webinar recordings are now available on the FNS Website! The Webinar for the School Food Authorities can be found by clicking the title link.

### **Monthly School Call : March 30, 2022 Webinar**

For those who missed the school call, all monthly school call webinar recordings can be found [here](#). Please forward this newsletter or SquareMeals.org link to additional staff, as needed.

### **New School Breakfast Resources from Team Nutrition**

Team Nutrition is announcing the availability of new school breakfast resources for State agencies, School Food Authorities, schools, and community partners.

### **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!

### **Summer Outreach Materials - Order Today!**

The Summer Meal Programs provide healthy and nutritious meals after the school year ends to children 18 years and younger and enrolled students with disabilities up to 21 years old. 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!

### **School Lunch Hero Day 2022**

On Friday, May 6, 2022, we celebrate School Lunch Hero Day! Between preparing healthy meals for Texas students, adhering to strict nutrition standards, navigating student food allergies, and offering service with a smile, school nutrition professionals are true heroes. School Lunch Hero Day provides the perfect opportunity to recognize the hardworking professionals in your school cafeterias. TDA has fun downloadable resources to help you celebrate your school lunch heroes.

### **Coming Soon: New Applications Pages on SquareMeals.org**

In the next couple of months, you may notice changes on the TX-UNPS Bulletin Board. All application related updates currently posted on TX-UNPS will be transitioned to SquareMeals.org. Also, going

forward there will be a new Applications page located under the NSLP Program tab on SquareMeals.org. The new Applications page will contain useful information for current CEs regarding application deadlines, resources, and latest news updates. A direct link to the Applications page on SquareMeals.org will be placed on the TX-UNPS bulletin board for easy access.

## **[Summer Materials Have Been Delivered to Assist School in meeting the USDA Requirement](#)**

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) delivered 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 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. Click [here](#) for more information about this USDA requirement.

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## **Deadlines**

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

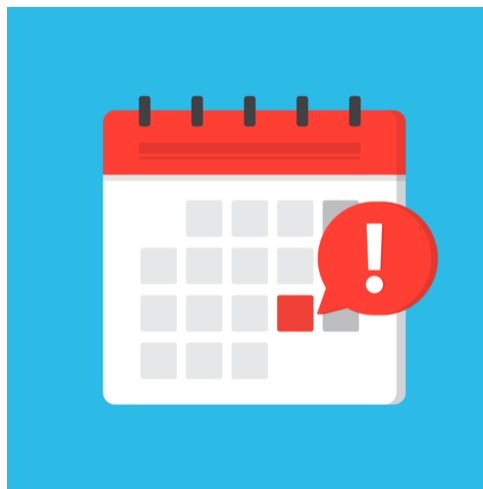
For upcoming deadlines, see the Program Year Calendar.

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

February and March claims are due. Claim deadline for February is April 29th. Don't delay, submit claims timely!!

### **[TX-UNPS Default School Year 2023](#)**

The default School Year for 2023 is set to View only mode until April 15, 2022. No changes to the 2023 application packet can be made until April 15, 2022. To modify the current 2022 application and submit any requested changes, please manually select the year 2021 – 2022.



### **[Security Form FND-101 to be removed from SquareMeals.org](#)**

TDA has fully transitioned to the User Access Manager for all entities and plans to remove the FND-101 form on SquareMeals.org effective 5/1/2022.

### **[Community Eligibility Provision \(CEP\) Deadline – June 30, 2022](#)**

The deadline to elect CEP for SY 2022-2023 is June 30th.

### **[Financial Report Deadline Extended to April 30th](#)**

The Financial Report opened March 1st for fiscal year 2020-2021 and is now due by April 30th.

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# Policy Updates and Compliance

## Reminders



### **[Reminder: Pre-Kindergarten \(Pre-K\) Meal Eligibility](#)**

Only pre-k students enrolled in a Head Start and Early Head Start programs qualify as eligible for free meals based on pre-k program enrollment.

### **[Universal Breakfast Program Waivers](#)**

The Universal Breakfast Program Waiver application opens on March 15.

### **[RELEASE: 2022-2023 Income Eligibility Guidelines](#)**

The Income Eligibility Guideline charts for 2022-2023 have been released for NSLP/SBP and SMP. They are located in the Forms table on the following pages: [National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program](#) and [Special Milk Program](#).

### **[RELEASE: Excess Net Cash Resources Plan](#)**

A new Excess Net Cash Resources Plan form has been released. This form replaces the previous Plan for Reducing an Excessive Operating Fund Balance. TDA updated this form to clarify the funding source—"net cash resources"—and to align with USDA terminology. TDA plans to update the Administrator's Reference Manual (ARM) soon to align with this update.

### **[USDA Approves Four "Traditional" Summer Waivers](#)**

USDA has approved TDA's requests to waive first week site visits for experienced SFSP sponsors, waive meal time restrictions for SFSP and SSO, allow closed enrolled SFSP and SSO sites to use area eligibility to establish site eligibility, and allow SFSP non-SFAs to operate Offer vs. Serve meal service. These waivers and flexibilities are traditionally available each summer for these programs. More information on how to implement these waivers is available on the SquareMeals Summer Waivers page via the title link.

### **[Correction to the Administrator's Reference Manual \(ARM\)](#)**

The latest version of the Administrator's Reference Manual (ARM) originally released on January 4, 2022 was re-issued with a minor correction. Section 4, Eligibility was corrected to align with the edits made in the May 27, 2021 release of the section. [Administrator's Reference Manual \(ARM\) here](#).

# Monthly Highlights

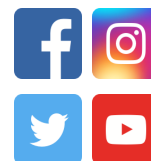
## [Turnip the Beet 2021 Texas Award Recipients](#)

Congratulations to our sixteen Turnip the Beet winners! These sponsors have earned USDA's award for going the extra mile in 2021 to provide nutritious and appealing summer meals.



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
**COMMISSIONER SID MILLER**

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Texas Department of Agriculture | P.O. Box 12847, Austin, TX 78711

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