

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NATIONAL SCHOOL

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

May 3, 2021

Embedded attachments with this issue

Refer to the COVID Page for Updates

Your Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) newsletter has returned, but [SquareMeals.org/CVNSLP](https://www.squaremeals.org/CVNSLP) will still be your source for all COVID-19-related regulatory information. The most current information regarding program operations that has been modified due to COVID-19 will continue to be found on our Coronavirus page to ensure that TDA shares updates from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in a way that is timely and consistent.



Throughout this school year, Texas school nutrition professionals have served healthy meals to ensure students can access the nutrition they need during challenging times. Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller is dedicating School Lunch Hero Day on May 7 to honoring the tireless efforts of school nutrition professionals as they continue finding innovative ways to provide meals in any academic setting.

Thank your local school lunch hero on May 7th. Visit [SquareMeals.org/SLHD](https://www.squaremeals.org/SLHD) to access resources, like downloadable thank you cards and posters, to recognize your school nutrition staff. Share your gratitude online using the tag #SchoolLunchHeroDay.

Policy Updates

Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) Meal Eligibility

Administrator's Reference Manual (ARM), Section 4, Eligibility will be updated to amend other source categorical eligible program guidance for pre-K. To qualify as other source categorically eligible based on enrollment in a pre-K program, the student must be enrolled in a Head Start or Early Head Start Program as determined by a list, letter, or form signed by the local program official. Enrollment in any other pre-K program does not qualify as other source categorical eligible and will require an eligibility determination based on the household application, DC list, or non-pre-K other source categorical eligibility (foster, homeless, or migrant status).

Please note that Income Eligibility Guidelines (IEGs) for the current school year must be used to determine NSLP/SBP eligibility, including NSLP/SBP eligibility for pre-K students. Any NSLP/SBP eligibility determination made during the 2020-2021 school year would be valid for the standard 30-day carryover period in the 2021-2022 school year.

Attachment B and Seamless Summer Option (SSO)

The Attachment B, *Policy Statement for Free and Reduced-Price Meals: Meal Count and Collection Procedure(s)* is tied to the contracting entities (CEs) NSLP operation. Therefore, CEs operating the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) are not required to complete the Attachment B in TX-UNPS. However, when a CE returns to NSLP operation, the CE must revise their Attachment B to reflect current NSLP meal count and collection procedures.



Resources

Meal Appeal Toolkit

Introducing the new NSLP Meal Appeal Toolkit on Meal Appeal for School Programs! Incorporate these easy tips to increase your meal appeal. To download the new toolkit, [click here](#).



Texas Farm Fresh Initiative

SY 2021-2022 Warehouse Contract Awardees

TDA would like to inform you that storage and distribution warehouse contracts are complete for SY 21-22. The awardees are listed by region below:

- Region 1 – Forte Frozen
- Region 2 – Forte Frozen
- Region 3 – Gold Star Foods Houston
- Region 4 – San Antonio Food Bank
- Region 5 – Pro Valley Foods
- Region 6 – US Foods
- Region 7 – El Pasoans Fighting Hunger
- Region 8 – Central Texas Food Bank



Warehouse contractors will begin deliveries under this new contract starting June 1st, 2021. The contracts, awarded pricing and RFP are posted to [SquareMeals](#). TDA is scheduling regional webinars with CEs to review contract pricing and deliverables in May. TDA is working with each warehouse to finalize delivery route schedules. Please expect to be contacted by your warehouse soon to discuss your delivery schedule for next year. They will be reaching out to the contacts listed in your FDP Contract Packet.

**Please note that the region your county is assigned to may have changed. In the latest RFP, TDA adjusted region coverage to both serve new areas and to get best competitive pricing. TDA will reach out to you if your region has changed. This information will also be found in TX-UNPS beginning June 1st, 2021.*

To CEs in Region 3 who will be undergoing a warehouse change from Houston Food Bank to Gold Star Foods Houston, please see the following information. Houston Food Bank will complete May deliveries. May orders must be placed by April 30th, 2021. Unordered inventory will be transferred to Gold Star Foods in May (dates forthcoming) and Gold Star Foods will begin deliveries June 1st, 2021.

TDA appreciates your patience and cooperation during the RFP process and assisting with preparation for next school year.

Storage and Distribution Reimbursements

TDA would like to inform School Food Authorities (SFAs) that we will be reimbursing you for storage and distribution costs of USDA Foods incurred from TDA contracted warehouses through May 31, 2021. Reimbursements will cover both storage fees and delivery fees of any USDA Foods stored and delivered by the TDA contracted warehouse, including Regular USDA Foods, Farm to School and further processed end-products.

TDA will only reimburse invoices that have been paid by the CE to the TDA contracted warehouse. Warehouses will submit the final report of paid invoice amounts by June 15, 2021, to determine what reimbursement amounts will be paid to each SFA. SFAs are encouraged to ensure all invoices are paid promptly to ensure you receive the maximum reimbursement on these fees.

For questions regarding this information, please contact your Education Service Center or visit Squaremeals@TexasAgriculture.gov.



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER
This product was funded by USDA.
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



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

Share this email:



[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove™

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

P.O. Box 12847
Austin, TX | 78711 US

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