

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

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

Biweekly

January 19, 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://squaremeals.org/cvnslp) will still be your source for all COVID-19-related regulatory information. The most current information regarding program operations that have 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.



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2021 National School Breakfast Week

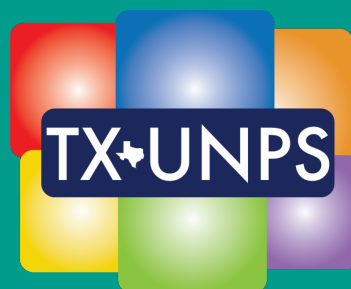
It is almost time to *Blast Off with a Healthy School Breakfast* during School Breakfast Week (SBW) 2021. This year's SBW takes place **March 8-12th** so there is still time to prepare. TDA materials feature the theme *Blast Off with a Healthy School Breakfast* and artwork inspired by the winning entries from the *You Art What You Eat* statewide student art contest. Combining TDA resources with a school nutrition team's creativity produces special celebrations that engage students, staff and communities.

Schools can support breakfast participation using the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) theme and resources. Visit the [School Breakfast Week page](#) on SquareMeals to download and print resources like morning announcements, social media ads, activity sheets, themed recipes, and menus to ease the stress of planning for the celebration week. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to encourage children to *Blast Off with a Healthy School Breakfast!*

TX-UNPS Activities

2021 Texas Summer Mandate Notification and Waiver

Texas Legislation requires school districts in which 50% or more of the enrolled children are eligible to receive free/reduced price NSLP meal benefits to participate in a summer meal program based on the March 2020 claim. All mandated school districts received an email notification of their requirement as well as instructions for submitting their intent in TX-UNPS.



Please submit your intent for summer 2021 or submit a mandate waiver request in TX-UNPS by the **January 31, 2021** deadline.

More information as well as the instructions, list of mandated CE's by ESC region, and the notification letter that CE's received can be viewed by visiting the [Summer Waivers page](#) on SquareMeals here.

Updates to MENU Module

MENU Module has been updated to version 10.15. This update includes the following enhancements:

- Locally grown indicator publishes to School Café
- "Add Menu Item" button on production screen is visible based on role permission
- Faster dynamic query execution
- Minor bug fixes

To see a complete list of enhancements, please visit the Announcements section on the MENU Module home screen:

1. Log into MENU Module via TX-UNPS
2. Click on the "Messages" hyperlink at the top, right side of the home page screen
3. The Announcement section should appear
4. Click on the "MENU Module version 10.15 Update Summary" announcement hyperlink to view the message.

Policy Updates

SFSP Reimbursement Rates Posted

The Federal Register Posting *Notice of Summer Food Service Program 2021 Reimbursement Rates* can be found [here](#). The SFSP rates of reimbursement located on SquareMeals have been updated [here](#).



Updated Professional Standards Guide for School Nutrition Now Available

Team Nutrition has just released the updated [Guide to Professional Standards for School Nutrition Programs](#). This updated resource provides State and local school nutrition professionals a comprehensive guide to the required annual training and hiring standards under the Final Rule: Professional Standards for School Nutrition Programs Personnel. The updated guide addresses the additional final rule, published March, 1, 2019, that adds four flexibilities to the hiring standards for new school nutrition program directors in small local educational agencies (LEAs) and new State directors of school nutrition programs under the Professional Standards regulations for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP). The resource supports school nutrition professionals in ensuring they have the knowledge, training, and tools they need to successfully operate the NSLP and SBP.

Visit the [Professional Standards web site](#) to access relevant resources all in one place.

Compliance

Financial Report

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is releasing the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Financial Report. This report is due **March 15, 2021**.

This report must be completed by Contracting Entities (CEs) who participate in the NSLP, School Breakfast Programs (SBP), School Milk Program (SMP) or At-Risk CACFP programs and must be completed by an authorized representative. The NSLP Financial Report will not be available in TX-UNPS. An email with a jot form link for the *Preparing for the Financial Report* form has been sent to the Child Nutrition Director on the SNP Application.



The *Preparing for the Financial Report* form has been provided to prepare the CE in completion of the *NSLP Financial Report*. It contains a list of documents, terminology, object codes, and additional pertinent information related to the *NSLP Financial Report*.

Once the CE has completed review of this form and gathered the necessary documents, the CE will submit and will be directed to the *NSLP Financial Report* jot form.

CEs may also find PDF copies of the *Preparing for the Financial Report*, *NSLP Financial Report*, and *Excessive Fund Balance Plan*, the recording on the NSLP Financial Report training, and slide deck for the training presentation located on SquareMeals [here](#)

CEs may refer to Section 16 of NSLP Administrative Reference Manual (ARM) on [SquareMeals](#) for compliance guidance on financial systems information.

All other inquiries regarding the NSLP Financial Report may be sent to School.Operations@TexasAgriculture.gov.

Texas Farm Fresh Initiative

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Registration Now Open for the 2021 Spring Farm Fresh Challenge

All program operators are invited to participate in a special spring Farm Fresh Challenge during April 2021. Operators that meet the Eat Local, Teach Local, and Be Social parameters can get access to new resources and earn recognition for bringing local foods to meals for kids. Whether you are operating digitally or in person this spring, please visit [Squaremeals.org/FarmFreshChallenge](https://squaremeals.org/FarmFreshChallenge) to learn more about how to participate in the Spring Farm Fresh Challenge.



[Register here](#)

Now Accepting Applications for the Texas Farm Fresh Jump with Jill 2021 Digital Tour!

Jump with Jill is back and ready to rock its way into Texas schools this spring! As part of the Texas Farm Fresh Initiative, TDA is offering a free digital nutrition education experience to select elementary schools in Texas. In addition to a one-hour, pre-recorded show for students, teachers will receive educational materials leading up to and following the show to encourage continued learning on the topics of nutrition and physical activity. The application is available [here](#) and will close on **January 29, 2021**. All contracting entities (CEs) participating in the National School Lunch Program are encouraged to apply for this statewide opportunity. Schools educating any segment of K-5 students are eligible to experience the digital show (ex: K-2, grades 3-5).

TDA and Jump with Jill will host an informational webinar on **January 22, 2021**, to answer any questions prior to the application deadline. Click [here](#) to register for the webinar.

For additional information, visit the SquareMeals [Farm Fresh Digital Tour web page](#) or contact FarmFresh@TexasAgriculture.gov.

Resources

New Menu Calendar Templates

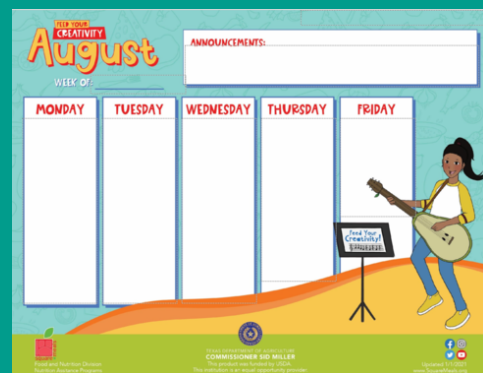
The menu calendar templates for the 2021-2022 school year are now available! This year's theme is "Feeding Your Creativity" and each template features a fun character who incorporates food into an everyday activity!

TDA appreciates your feedback and this year we have removed the activities on the back of each calendar and are now providing weekly and daily menu template options. English and Spanish templates are still available this year. We hope this gives you more flexibility when planning your menus.

Click [here](#) to download the templates.

Excess USDA Foods Inventory

TDA created [USDA Warehouse Excess Inventory Flyers](#) highlighting the excess inventory (surplus food items) at your USDA warehouse as of January 2021. Each flyer lists USDA Food items available with corresponding USDA Recipes. Check surplus inventory weekly in TX-UNPS to see what additional USDA Foods you can receive for your district. As a reminder, the CE must have available entitlement to order surplus



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New Training Modules

Implementing and Operating the Community Eligibility Provision is a new web-based training module that has been added to NSLP Online Training on SquareMeals. This training is for CEs that have elected to participate in CEP and provides guidance in the implementation process and changes to operations under CEP. Satisfactory completions of the course will provide 60 minutes of Professional Standards credit in the 3000 - Administration Training Topic.

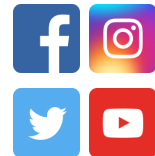
Calorie Requirements for School Meals and Competitive Food Sales is an introductory module describes calorie requirements for the School Lunch and Breakfast Programs and food items sold in competition with reimbursable meals. This [course](#) provides .5 hours of Professional Standards credit.

New Food Buying Guide Features Now Available

New features released on December 11, 2020 are now available on the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs (FBG). Team Nutrition appreciates receiving your feedback on the FBG and works continuously to enhance the user experience. Team Nutrition has further enhanced the capabilities for registered users by allowing Program operators the ability to create folders for the Recipe Analysis Workbooks (RAW) in the FBG Interactive Web-based tool. This new feature allows users to organize their RAWs using the Web-based Tool and also view them when logged into the FBG Mobile App. Additionally, users can now conveniently access their Favorite foods directly from the homepage with the new Favorite foods button on the FBG Web-based Tool. See what the [Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs](#) has to offer you today!



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