



## November 2021 Monthly Newsletter

### Events, Trainings and Resources

#### [Now Available in Print for Team Nutrition Schools: Stronger with School Meals Materials](#)



Team Nutrition Schools can now order free printed copies of new Stronger with School Meals educational materials. These materials celebrate how school meals, and the school nutrition professionals that provide them, help students stay strong physically (through good nutrition) and mentally (through the sharing of mealtimes in person or virtually).

#### [Now available in print: Professional Standards Training Reward Badges](#)

Professional Standards training reward badges are a fun way to promote training and recognize staff who have completed training. School nutrition professionals can earn badges by completing training in any of the key areas: Nutrition, Operations, Administration, or Communication/Marketing.

#### [SY 22-23 Menu Calendar Templates Now Available](#)

The menu calendar templates for school year 2022-2023 are now available! This year's theme is "Get Yourself in Gear with a Healthy School Meal" and each English and Spanish template features a fun character who incorporates food into an everyday activity! Click here to visit the Resources page and access the templates.

#### [Team Nutrition Back-to-School Support Kit](#)

As schools work toward resuming regular operations, USDA continues to offer flexibilities in response to public

health needs and to ease administrative burden, while still promoting nutritious meals.

### [Team Nutrition Toddler Nutrition Web Quizzes](#)

USDA's Team Nutrition initiative is proud to announce the release of the English and Spanish-language Toddler Nutrition web quizzes. Quizzes on Infant Nutrition (English and Spanish) and School Lunch are also available, with additional quizzes coming this fall and winter.

## Deadlines

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

For upcoming deadlines, see the Program Year Calendar.

### [Claim Deadline Reminder](#)

September claims are due by November 29th. Don't delay, submit claims timely!

	Child Nutrition	Food Assistance	Nutrition Assistance	Other
Child Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>September 1 - Child Nutrition (CN) Claims</li> <li>September 15 - Child Nutrition (CN) Claims</li> <li>September 30 - Child Nutrition (CN) Claims</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>September 15 - Food Assistance (FA) Claims</li> <li>September 30 - Food Assistance (FA) Claims</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>September 15 - Nutrition Assistance (NA) Claims</li> <li>September 30 - Nutrition Assistance (NA) Claims</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>September 15 - Other Claims</li> <li>September 30 - Other Claims</li> </ul>
Food Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>September 15 - Food Assistance (FA) Claims</li> <li>September 30 - Food Assistance (FA) Claims</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>September 15 - Food Assistance (FA) Claims</li> <li>September 30 - Food Assistance (FA) Claims</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>September 15 - Nutrition Assistance (NA) Claims</li> <li>September 30 - Nutrition Assistance (NA) Claims</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>September 15 - Other Claims</li> <li>September 30 - Other Claims</li> </ul>
Nutrition Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>September 15 - Nutrition Assistance (NA) Claims</li> <li>September 30 - Nutrition Assistance (NA) Claims</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>September 15 - Nutrition Assistance (NA) Claims</li> <li>September 30 - Nutrition Assistance (NA) Claims</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>September 15 - Nutrition Assistance (NA) Claims</li> <li>September 30 - Nutrition Assistance (NA) Claims</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>September 15 - Other Claims</li> <li>September 30 - Other Claims</li> </ul>

### [Farm Fresh Challenge Participants – Attestations forms due November 15th!](#)

Congratulations on completing another year of the Texas Department of Agriculture's Farm Fresh Challenge. All schools that wish to earn recognition must complete their attestation form no later than 11/15/2021. Submit your attestation form [here!](#)

### [School Breakfast Week 2022 - Pre-Order Promotional Items Today](#)

It is time to plan for School Breakfast Week (SBW) 2022, March 7-11th. TDA materials feature the theme Feed Your Creativity with a Healthy School Breakfast and artwork inspired by the winning entries from the You Art What You Eat student art contest. Click [here](#) for more information about SBW 2022, to order promotional materials, and more digital resources.

### [Student Art Contest - Order Promotional Items Today](#)

The Texas Department of Agriculture's (TDA) You Art What You Eat art contest offers Texas students a chance to earn statewide recognition for their artwork. Click [here](#) for more information about the contest, to order promotional materials, and to submit an entry.

## Policy Updates and Compliance Reminders

## [2022 Texas Summer Mandate Notification and Waiver](#)

Texas Legislation requires school districts to participate in a summer meal program if 50% or more of the enrolled children are eligible to receive free/reduced price NSLP meal based on the March 2021 claim.

## [Low-Fat \(1%\) Flavored Milk – Congressional Flexibility Extended through December 3, 2021](#)

Due to recent Congressional action, flexibility allowing low-fat, flavored milk in the NSLP and SBP is now effective through December 3, 2021. This provides additional flexibility in planning school breakfast and lunch menus but does not require schools to make any menu changes.

## [New Instructions/Process for Form H4529.1 - Authorization to Transfer USDA Foods](#)

TDA has created a new electronic form H4529.1 – Authorization to Transfer USDA Foods for Further Processing. This form is used to request TDA approval to transfer USDA Foods for further processing in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). New instructions and resources are available by clicking here.

## [New Unanticipated School Closure Notification Form](#)

TDA has released a new notification form for schools operating SSO during an unanticipated school closure. While no approval is required to operate SSO during an unanticipated school closure, completion of the notification form is required.

## [Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer \(P-EBT\) Updates](#)

Benefit issuances for school year 2020-21 P-EBT wrapped up in October with over \$3.9 billion dollars provided to 3.8 million Texas children. Summer P-EBT benefits will be issued to eligible children starting in late November.

A Texas state plan for school year 2021-22 P-EBT is currently in development. For the most up to date information, click here.

## [Preliminary Verification Report Due November 15!](#)

All CEs are required to complete the report. Click the headline for more information!

## [Questions and Answers for CNP Emergency Procurement Due to Supply Chain Disruptions](#)

USDA Memo SP 01-2022, CACFP 01-2022, Questions and Answers for Child Nutrition Programs Emergency Procurement Due to Supply Chain Disruptions, provides clarification on questions related to Child Nutrition Programs' use of emergency procurements due to supply chain disruptions caused by COVID-19.

## [TDA is Streamlining Communications](#)

TDA strives to deliver timely and consistent information to our CEs. To ensure this, we are streamlining our communication methods. All information will be posted on SquareMeals.org and supplemented by alternative

School Year 2022 and 2023 Texas Summer Mandate

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

For the 2022 and 2023 school year, TDA will be using March 2020 data to identify which school districts must participate in the Texas Summer Mandate. Participation in SSO for the 2021-2022 school year will not impact eligibility for the summer mandate. TDA will notify mandated schools by October 31st of each year.

Programs > Summer Meal Programs > Waivers

Waivers for Summer Meal Programs

Get Started	Deadline	Exemption/Waiver Topic and Purpose	Explanation and Guidance in the Administrator's Reference Manual (ARMS)	Resources
Administration Forms				<a href="#">National Weather Service</a>
Area Eligibility				<a href="#">2021 Texas Summer Mandate</a>
CFDA/FAIN Numbers				<a href="#">2021 Texas Summer Mandate Letter</a>
Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opens 11-1</li> <li>Expires 5-31</li> </ul>	<b>Summer Mandate:</b> SFA's who are mandated must submit their intent to operate a summer feeding program (SSO, SBP or Partner with another SFA) or submit a waiver. Waiver Purpose - Seek approval to opt out of mandated requirement to serve a summer meal program.	Section 11 Summer Meals	<a href="#">2021 Summer Mandate Contracting Entities List</a>
Disaster Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expires 1-31</li> <li>Expires 5-31</li> </ul>	<b>Partner Intent:</b> Partner with another SFA or submit a waiver. Waiver Purpose - Seek approval to opt out of mandated requirement to serve a summer meal program.		<a href="#">Summer Mandate TX-UNPS Instructions</a>
Food Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expires 5-31</li> <li>Expires 9-30</li> </ul>	<b>Partner Agreement:</b> Partner with another SFA or submit a waiver. Waiver Purpose - Seek approval to opt out of mandated requirement to serve a summer meal program.		<a href="#">Cost Reporting</a>
Funding Opportunities				
Income Eligibility Guidelines				
Latest News				
Meal Pattern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opens 5-31</li> <li>Expires 5-31</li> </ul>	<b>Seamless Summer Option:</b> Waiver purpose - Seek approval to serve only one age/grade group meal pattern at a summer meal site.	Section 12, Seamless Summer Option (SSO)	
National Dequalified List				
Newsletter				
Policy/Handbooks				
Program Year Calendar				
Reimbursement Rates				
Resources				
Statistics				

Non-congregate Feeding based on Extreme Weather and Non-Congregate Feeding and Demonstration Project Based on Excessive Heat waivers are not currently approved by USDA. If you are seeking non-congregate feeding, please refer to the [Declares or Decline COVID-19 Meal Service Waiver](#).

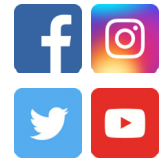
methods depending on the type of information. Click here to see a breakdown of the communication plan.

### [USDA Clarifications for USDA Foods Entitlement Usage](#)

USDA has provided updated guidance for spending USDA Foods entitlement in school year 2021-2022.



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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