

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NATIONAL SCHOOL

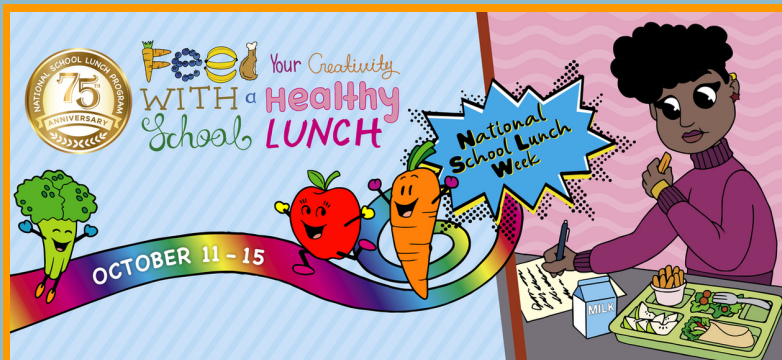
3E'S OF HEALTHY LIVING *Lunch Program*
EDUCATION, EXERCISE AND EATING RIGHT

August 16, 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.



National School Lunch Week

It is almost time to *Feed Your Creativity with a Healthy School Lunch* during National School Lunch Week (NSLW) 2021. Schools can support lunch participation using the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) theme and resources. [Order your NSLW materials](#) from TDA at no cost today; quantities are limited. Using the online order form, schools can order posters, participation charts, stickers, floor decals and tri-a-ramas. Resources are also available for download.

This year's NSLW takes place October 11th – 15th so there is still time to prepare. TDA materials feature the theme *Feed Your Creativity with a Healthy School Lunch* 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. Click [here](#) to order resources and learn about how to make your NSLW a healthy event that everyone enjoys! [Orders are due by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, September 1, 2021!](#)

Policy Updates

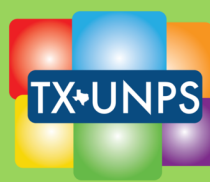
Release: Updated Instructions/Process

TDA has replaced its manual form H4529 – *Authorization to Transfer USDA Foods* with an electronic form process. This process is applicable to transfers between NSLP CEs served by the same state contracted warehouse and food bank CEs participating in CSFP and/or TEFAP. New instructions for each applicable program are located on the Administration/Forms pages for those programs at the following links:



- [National School Lunch Program](#)
- [Food Distribution Program](#)
- [The Emergency Food Assistance Program](#)
- [Commodity Supplemental Food Program](#)

TX-UNPS Updates



PY 2021-2022 Application Reminders

The School Nutrition Program (SNP) site applications must be submitted and approved as a prerequisite for SSO application processing. SSO sites submitted for approval will be returned for correction if there are no SNP site applications in submitted and/or approved status.

Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Approved Site Application Behavior

An approved SSO site application in the prior program year may not automatically roll over to the next program year and populate in the SSO Site Application Site List. In these instances, sponsors should choose the "Add Site Application" function located at the bottom of the Site List and manually add the site application back to the Site List.

Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Closed Site Application Behavior

When an SSO site application is closed in the prior program year, it may roll-over to the current program year in Pending Validation status. In this eventuality, these site applications may be ignored or deleted at the sponsor's discretion.

ASCP Site Applications that reflect no pre-populated Free and Reduced Eligibility or less than 50% Free and Reduced Eligibility

When completing a site application for ASCP that does not meet area eligibility, the system will respond with an error message. To address this scenario, please follow these instructions:
Line number C4. Free and Reduced Enrollment Percentage:

1. Select second option, "Attendance Area Eligible – Eligible based on another site (claim all snacks free)"
2. From the resulting drop-down menu, select "Other."
3. From the resulting text field, enter, "USDA waiver #85."

Seamless Summer Option Program Year 2022 (SSO PY22)

As of July 15, 2021, site applications in TX-UNPS are open for SSO PY22. Please update and submit all SSO site applications that you intend to operate for October 2021 through the end of the school year. Please see below for SSO site application guidance:

Site application naming convention:

- CONGREGATE ONLY: Use regular Site Name and Site ID#
- NON-CONGREGATE ONLY: Grab and Go - use CVGG as the site name. For example, CVGG Brushy Oaks EL.
- NON-CONGREGATE/CONGREGATE COMBINATION: May be one site. Use CVGG as the site name. For example, CVGG Brushy Oaks EL. Two separate site applications do not need to be completed.
- HOME DELIVERY: Use CVHD as the site name.

SPECIAL GUIDANCE FOR SSO SITES, please read carefully:

1. If the site does comply with standard area eligibility requirements, then complete the site as normal.
2. For sites that do not comply with standard area eligibility requirements please use the following guidance.

OPEN/RESTRICTED OPEN Site:

1. Indicate the type of site as Open or Restricted Open. If Restricted Open answer "Why is attendance limited/restricted due to security, safety or control?" (note- restricted open is still an open site, serving on a first come, first serve basis until capacity is met due to security, safety, or control).
2. Respond to "Qualified by:" choose "Other." Enter, "USDA waiver #85" in the "Explain" text field.

CLOSED ENROLLED site:

Complete Section 13 Type of Site and Eligibility in the SSO site application in TX-UNPS

1. Indicate the type of site as Closed Enrolled
2. In the first text box enter "USDA waiver #85."
3. Answer "Why sponsoring a closed site" Covid Flexibilities
4. Respond to Qualified by: choose Other. Enter "USDA waiver #85" in the Explain text field

Resources and Opportunities

New Parent Resources

The *More Than a Meal Application* flyer shows families that filling out a meal application has benefits beyond just receiving a free or reduced-price meal. Meal applications can also affect availability of pandemic EBT, school funding, reducing academic testing fees/ athletic fees/ college application fees, and availability of discounted internet access.

The *No Cost Meals for Students During School Year 21-22* is for schools operating SSO this school year to inform families that no cost meals will be available to ALL students, regardless of income, for School Year 21-22 due to COVID-19.

Resources are available in English and Spanish. Download these resources by visiting our website www.SquareMeals.org/coronavirus > clicking on the NSLP Resources tab on the left menu > then scrolling down to the *Guidance and Resources* section.

Health Ambassadors for a Ready Texas (HART) Application Now Open

Help recruit HART students for your district by sharing the [HART marketing handout](#) with teachers and student leaders passionate about healthy eating and Texas agriculture! HART students work to promote school nutrition



Resource for Supply Challenge Management



Due to COVID-19 some School Food Authorities (SFAs) may have challenges in receiving food orders as planned. Check out the new resource "Tips to Manage Supply Chain Challenges" for some helpful tips to help manage food supply challenges and ensure student meal service continues available at [here](#).

New Professional Standards Resources from Team Nutrition





A number of resources pertaining to Professional Standards for School Nutrition Professionals were recently updated. These include:

- [Professional Standards Summary of Updates Flyer](#) (online)
- [The Guide to Professional Standards for School Nutrition Programs](#) (online and coming soon in print)
- The [Professional Standards Training Reward Badges](#) packet (online and coming soon in print)
- The Team Nutrition Professional Standards Resources [webpage](#)

Team Nutrition's new [Professional Standards Resources webpage](#) is a central location for school nutrition professionals to access various resources related to Professional Standards.



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