

This information is to keep you informed of any changes in policies and procedures and of new communication originating from the State Office this month.

January 28, 2019 CE Edition

No Attachments this Issue

You Art What You Eat Contest

The Texas Department of Agriculture's (TDA) annual **You Art What You Eat** statewide student art contest is here! The student art contest offers Texas students a chance to earn statewide recognition for themselves and their school. Student winners receive a custom prize package and their artwork will inspire the design for TDA's National School Lunch Week and School Breakfast Week campaigns!

To encourage student participation, TDA provided CNDs the opportunity to order promotional posters and bookmarks at no cost. Materials have been delivered, so be sure to display the posters and pass out the bookmarks to students!

To enter the art contest, students will create artwork highlighting good nutrition and TDA's theme for National School Lunch Week 2019 / School Breakfast Week 2020. The new theme is "**Save the Day with a Healthy School Lunch/ Breakfast**" This year TDA provides teachers with a new, easy way to upload and submit student entries. The Submission Packet and Guidelines can be found online at www.SquareMeals.org/artcontest. The submissions deadline is **April 12, 2019**.



Thank you for your ongoing partnership! Please join TDA in encouraging students to focus their artistic talents on healthy school meals by entering the You Art What You Eat statewide student art contest.

TX-UNPS Updates



Tips for Accessing TX-UNPS

With the recent TX-UNPS Security Update which took place on January 25, 2019, contracting entities (CEs) must use the most current version of their browser to quickly and efficiently access TX-UNPS. TDA has created a tip sheet which can be accessed [here](#).

Policy News

Revised ARM

The following revised ARM Sections have been released and posted:

- ARM Section 2, *Application and Agreement*
- ARM Section 10, *Afterschool Meal Programs*
- ARM Section 23, *Compliance Reviews* (this section was previously titled *Administrative Review*)



We have also posted ARM Update Guide 2018-2019 which gives details about the revisions. We are continuing to post ARM Update Guide 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 so CEs have access to revisions made during those school years.

You can find the ARM, ARM Update Guides, and a complete searchable ARM on SquareMeals [here](#).

Please replace any previous version of ARM Section 2, 10, and 23 that you may have saved.

Reminder: CEP March Reports

The CEP March Reports are due in TX-UNPS on March 20, 2019. Click [here](#) to view a refresher on this report.

Reminder: Extended/Expanded Learning Time—Afterschool Programs for NSLP & CACFP

TDA released a new afterschool form on January 11, 2019. This form is intended to be used by CEs to: (1) assist in determining if a site is eligible to offer a snack or meal before the end of the school day and (2) submit a request for approval to offer a snack or meal before the end of the school day.

All CEs that operate an Afterschool Care Program or CACFP At Risk and have implemented the extended/expanded instructional day flexibility in School Year 2018-2019 must complete and submit this form by February 22, 2019.

- National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Afterschool Care Program participating sites should direct correspondence to NSLP.bops@texasagriculture.gov.
- Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) At-Risk sites should direct correspondence to CACFP.Bops@texasagriculture.gov.

School Meal Flexibilities

Starting in the 2019-2020 school year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture introduced flexibilities in three school meal pattern requirements — milk component, grains component and sodium dietary specifications. Contracting entities (CEs) are not required to request approval to implement these flexibilities. To view specifics click [here](#).

Updated Tool for Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Process

TDA has updated the CEP validation process information sheet. Please use the information on this sheet for School Year 2019-2020. CEs that need to have data validated should contact their ESC immediately. All CEs that plan to operate CEP must indicate this option in TX-UNPS (Application Packet) by **June 30, 2019**.

Updated Meal Patterns: Expiration of Transition Period Notification

Guidance from USDA Memo CACFP 01-2019/SP 01-2019, Guidance for FY 2019 – *Updated Child and Adult Care Food Program Meal Patterns and Updated National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Infant and Preschool Meal Patterns*, regarding the **expiration** of the one year transition period for implementation of the updated meal patterns and describing the expectations for full implementation and the actions to be taken in the event of a non-compliance can be accessed [here](#).

Texas Farm Fresh Initiative



Farm Fresh Initiative Survey Currently Open

TDA is collecting information from NSLP CEs regarding current participation in the Farm Fresh Initiative. Information gathered in this survey will be used to guide program staff in developing resources helpful to Texas CEs, as well as help Texas farmers and ranchers that want to sell products to schools. Survey results will be made public in the coming months.

All CNDs participating in the NSLP have received an e-mail invitation to participate. Please complete the survey by **March 18, 2019**. Thank you in advance for your participation!

Districts in your region can access the survey [here](#).

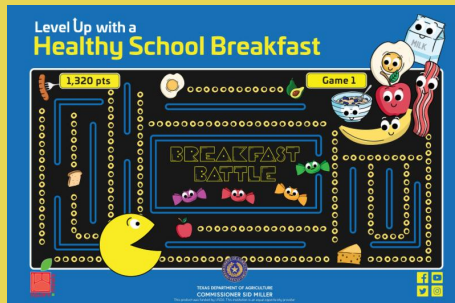
Congratulations to all 2018 Farm Fresh Challenge Participants

Participants in the 2018 Farm Fresh Challenge served more local foods, provided more nutrition education, and shared more posts on social media than ever before! Challenge participants reported spending \$5.8 million on local foods served in the cafeteria during the challenge, reaching over 2.8 million students statewide.

A list of school districts that completed the 2018 Farm Fresh Challenge is posted [here](#). Recognition materials will be distributed to all school districts starting in February.

Since 2013, TDA has recognized Texas school districts for their efforts to incorporate more local foods and Farm Fresh activities into the school day. Open to all TDA contracting entities (CE in the National School Lunch Program, the Farm Fresh Challenge is a fun and engaging way to celebrate Texas agriculture and the local flavors they add to school menus.

Resources



School Breakfast Week Materials

Schools across Texas are receiving their School Breakfast Week (SBW) cafeteria posters now. If you have not located your posters, please ask the front office, cafeteria staff members or administrative offices if they have accepted delivery of the packages from the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA).

If you ordered SBW participation charts, selfie backdrops, floor decals or tri-a-ramas, you can expect delivery soon. Please alert the same staff members mentioned above so they can help you ensure you receive these valuable promotional materials. They

were a big hit again this year and the order form is now closed. These materials were available at no cost on a first come first serve basis, so later orders may not be filled in full. Thank you to all of the child nutrition directors who ordered materials to encourage student and parent involvement as they Level Up with a Healthy School Breakfast!

If you were unable to order the materials available for delivery, other materials are available in the online toolkit. Online materials include parent involvement flyers, morning announcements, menus, and more!! To download these materials, visit SquareMeals.org/SBW.

USDA Foods Updates

Reminder to Complete PY 2019 Contract Packet

Friday, February 1, 2019: Due date to complete the Program Year 2019-2020 NSLP Contract Packet in TX-UNPS. Any questions regarding completion and submission of the packet can be directed to the Education Service Center.

Monday, February 11, 2019: For CEs who chose to participate in the DoD Fresh Program, please check the entitlement value in the Weekly Commodity Bulletin for the fair share distribution.

Friday, March 1, 2019: Annual and Processing Surveys close COB for all USDA Foods.



[Previous Issue](#)



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