



October 31, 2018

Re: Legal Requirement to Operate a Summer Nutrition Program

Dear Child Nutrition Director:

Thank you for your commitment to providing a year round healthy school nutrition environment for Texas school children served by your district. We appreciate your partnership to help Texas children in need access nutrition.

Texas law (Agriculture Code, Title 2, Chapter 12, Section 12.0029) requires public school food authorities (SFAs) with 50 percent or more of enrolled students eligible for free or reduced-price meals in the National School Lunch Program to operate a Summer Nutrition Program to provide meals to students in need for a minimum of 30 calendar days during the summer months.

As your school district meets this requirement, you must select one of the following three options and provide the applicable information to the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) **no later than January 31, 2019** using the Texas Summer Mandate form in TDA's electronic system, TX-UNPS:

1. Operate a Summer Nutrition Program as a sponsor during the summer of 2019 for a minimum of 30 calendar days; or
2. Partner or collaborate with another organization or SFA to support their summer program; or
3. Request and receive approval for a waiver for participation, submit the required documentation and identify a potential alternate provider. If requesting a waiver, state law requires the board of trustees to send written notice of the district's intention to the district's local school health advisory council (SHAC) no later than November 30, 2018. The notice must include an explanation of the district's reason for requesting a waiver of the requirement.

Enclosed are detailed instructions providing a step by step guide to assist you in successfully providing the required information to TDA by January 31, 2019. If you have questions about this requirement, please contact your regional Education Service Center. Additional information can also be found by visiting [www.SquareMeals.org/SummerWaivers](http://www.SquareMeals.org/SummerWaivers).

Thank you for your continued partnership in feeding Texas children in need.

Sincerely,

*Catherine Wright-Steele*

Catherine Wright Steele  
Administrator

**Texas Summer Mandate Instructions Here!**



**TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER**

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