October 31, 2019

Re: Legal Requirement to Operate a Summer Nutrition Program

Dear Child Nutrition Director:

Thank you for your on-going commitment to nourish and support our state's children and promote a healthy school environment across your district. The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) appreciates the partnership with you and your team to ensure all Texas children have access to excellent, nutritious meals and are prepared to learn and grow each day.

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 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 TDA no later than January 31, 2020 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 2020 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 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, 2019. 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, 2020. 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/Summer Waivers.

Thank You for your continued partnership in feeding Texas Children in need.

Sincerely,

Catherine Wright-Steele
Administrator

Enclosure
CWS/MDG/dh
cc: Superintendent