

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grants
Texas School Food Authority (SFA) Scoring Criteria

I.	20 points	SFA's ability to expend grant funds by September 30, 2009	
		No (Applicant does not expect to expend funds by September 30, 2009)	0
		Moderate Likelihood (Plan is outlined with no steps taken, i.e., will follow procedures)	10
		Strong Likelihood (Steps are already underway to meet the deadline, i.e., bids written)	15
		Virtually Assured (Price/vendor/timeframes are known, i.e., order from co-op lists)	20
II.	5 points	SFA's Ability to Accomplish Project without ARRA Grant	
		Ratio of fund balance to average 3-months total expenses ≥ 2	0
		Ratio of fund balance to average 3-months total expenses between 1 and 2	3
		Ratio of fund balance to average 3-months total expenses ≤ 1	5
III.	20 points	School's Free and Reduced Eligibility	
		Less than 50% free and reduced eligibility	1
		Bottom quartile of respondents over 50% eligibility	5
		Second quartile of respondents over 50% eligibility	10
		Third quartile of respondents over 50% eligibility	15
		Top quartile of respondents over 50% eligibility	20
IV.	15 points	School's Average Daily Participation as a Percent of Enrollment	
		Bottom quartile of respondents	0
		Third quartile of respondents	5
		Second quartile of respondents	10
		Top quartile of respondents	15

V. 40 points Degree to which equipment meets USDA’s stated priority goals

a. Improve the quality of the school foodservice in order to meet dietary guidelines 10
(categorize equipment into one of the three scoring categories)

(0)	(5)	(10)
Equipment proposal doesn’t improve nutrition (swaps like equipment for like; doesn’t apply to this criterion)	Equipment proposal improves nutrition moderately (removes some fryers but not all; increases portions of fruits/vegetables served per week to a moderate extent)	Equipment proposal improves nutrition exceptionally (removes all fryers; increases portions of fruits/vegetables served per week to a large extent)

b. Improve the safety of the food served in the school meals programs 10
(categorize equipment into one of the three scoring categories)

(0)	(5)	(10)
Equipment proposal doesn’t improve safety (swaps like equipment for like; doesn’t apply to this criterion)	Equipment proposal improves nutrition moderately (upgrades existing equipment like those described to the right; installs equipment with a lesser impact on safety such as steam tables and chill plates)	Equipment proposal improves safety exceptionally (first-time introduction of important safety equipment such as 3-compartment sinks, walk-in freezers, computer-monitored temperature controls, vent-a-hoods, dishwashers)

c. Improve the overall energy efficiency of the school food service operations 10

(0)	Equipment proposal doesn’t improve energy efficiency (swaps like equipment for like; doesn’t apply to this criterion)
	If proposed equipment improves energy efficiency:
(1-7)	Sliding scale based on the age of the equipment being replaced (5, 10, 20, 20+ years) and/or condition of the equipment being replaced (functional, damaged, seriously compromised)
(+1 to +3)	Additional points for the level of energy efficiency of the specific equipment proposed (good, better, best available)

d. Allow the school to support expanded participation in the school meals program 10
(categorize equipment into one of the seven scoring categories)

(0)	Equipment proposal doesn’t expand participation (swaps like equipment for like; doesn’t apply to this criterion)
(4)	Equipment is expected to expand participation in only NSLP to a moderate extent
(5)	Equipment is expected to expand participation in only NSLP to a large extent
(6)	Equipment is expected to expand participation in NSLP to a moderate extent, plus can be used in one other school nutrition program
(7)	Equipment is expected to expand participation in NSLP to a large extent, plus can be used in one other school nutrition program
(8)	Equipment is expected to expand participation in NSLP to a moderate extent, plus can be used in two other school nutrition programs
(10)	Equipment is expected to expand participation in NSLP to a large extent, plus can be used in two other school nutrition programs