



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE **COMMISSIONER SID MILLER**

Dear School Nutrition Partner:

Commissioner Sid Miller and I are excited to announce that the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is now accepting applications for culinary workshops made possible by the [Team Nutrition Grants for Meal Pattern Modernization and Retention and Mentorship Opportunities](#). Invited participants will attend weeklong in-person workshops at the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) campus in San Antonio. Attendees receive expert instruction for introducing more Farm Fresh cooking in school kitchens and bringing innovative new ideas to district staff when they return home.

The five-day workshops focus on serving locally sourced proteins, fruits, vegetables, and whole grains in school meals and aligning menus with the [U.S. Department of Agriculture's Final Rule for Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#). Each day includes a combination of demonstrations, hands-on activities, and classroom instruction. During the week, participants will prepare approximately 100 Farm Fresh, delicious and nutritious recipes while earning continuing education units (CEUs) to help reach professional development goals.

Workshops will take place during spring break and summer break in 2026 and 2027, and there are 30 spots available in each workshop. Each school district may apply to enroll two to four participants. Participants must attend together and be committed to transferring skills and information from the course to teach peers and enhance processes within their district. School district chefs, dietitians, menu planners, and nutrition managers are encouraged to [apply here](#).

This TDA and CIA collaboration connects Texas school nutrition programs with game-changing culinary expertise. TDA and CIA will also develop a library of digital resources for schools across Texas. These efforts present an opportunity to bring a new set of skills to school kitchens across Texas. I look forward to seeing how the workshops and resource development sharpen school nutrition skills in Texas.

Sincerely,

Lena Wilson
Assistant Commissioner
Food and Nutrition