



NEWS AND PREVIEWS

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

November 3, 2009

SCHOOL FOOD AUTHORITY

Share a Tip for Making Money Matter

Is there a school in your area using novel strategies to increase the bottom line; ways to make foodservice operations more profitable; or resources to improve cost savings? If so, we want to share the idea in our [Kids@Heart](#) newsletter! Please take a moment and forward a short description of the fresh approach to Lisa Losasso, Program Specialist in the Nutrition, Education and Outreach unit who will be responsible for the outreach and marketing strategic efforts. Her e-mail address is Lisa.Losasso@TexasAgriculture.gov.

CNPIMS Updates-Public and Charter Schools

Direct Certification October Addendum Update

USDA's guidance on direct certification allows the use of SNAP/TANF records for the preceding six (6) months to certify children. The records for this period are now available in the Child Nutrition Programs Information Management System (CNPIMS). The new file, called October Addendum, contains records back to April 2009. As with other direct certification lists, this list is available for viewing, printing and downloading. To access this information from the CNPIMS Main Menu, click the Direct Certification link. To access a comprehensive list, which includes all records released during this school year, click Year to Date List. To access only the newest additions, use the Update Period drop-down list and select October Addendum. After selecting the applicable period, you may choose to view, print or download the data. Each SFA using this list for determining free meal eligibility must print an official copy of the Direct Certification list by selecting the View/Print button and then choosing the Print button on the page. The SFA must retain this copy for their records.

Changes in eligibility as a result of direct certification updates must be applied within three (3) days.

This is confidential information and each SFA is expected to treat it as such. Please ensure that only the Authorized Representative for the Child Nutrition Program prints and downloads the data. Once printed, only persons directly responsible for making eligibility determinations should work with the data.

If you have any questions, please consult the CNPIMS User Guide on www.squaremeals.org, or contact the CNPIMS Help Desk at (888) TEX-KIDS. Because of confidentiality, please do not send questions pertaining to Direct Certification via e-mail.

CNPIMS Updates – Public and Charter Schools, cont'd

Updating Schedule A October Enrollment

Beginning November 1, public and charter schools are asked to please update the enrollment and eligibility on your 2010 Schedule A as of October 30. To update these figures, click on “Schedule A October Enrollment” from the Main Menu. Then enter Program Year 2010 and click Go. Enter enrollment and free and reduced eligibility for each campus in your district that is participating in the Child Nutrition Programs (National School Lunch, School Breakfast and After School Snack) as of October 30, 2009. If your district was not in session on this date, enter figures from the last school day in October.

If you have not updated the enrollment and eligibility figures when you submit your October claim, you will receive a warning message. If you have not updated these figures when you submit your November claim, payment for the November claim and all future claims will be held until the update is complete. Additionally, you will not be able to submit your verification report until this update is complete.

For more detailed instructions on Schedule A October Enrollment, refer to the CNPIMS User Guide on www.squaremeals.org. If you have additional questions, contact the CNPIMS Help Desk at (888) TEX-KIDS or cnpims@TexasAgriculture.gov.

Training

The School Nutrition Association (SNA) holds a weekly series called “Webinar Wednesdays” with some great upcoming topics. Details about the free sessions and how to register are at <http://schoolnutrition.org/Content.aspx?id=10256>.

- November 4th at 2:00 pm ET ~ After School Snacks, sponsor is Kraft
- December 3rd at 2:00 pm ET ~ District of Excellence, sponsor is National Dairy Council

SquareMeals Updates/Mailouts

Online Access to SNAPS Letters

Starting November 1, 2009, TDA contractors who use the Special Nutrition Automated Processing System (SNAPS) claims system will be able to access correspondence from TDA online via SNAPS. The system will maintain an archive of letters generated after the launch of this function, but letters sent previously will not be available electronically. SNAPS contractors were notified of this change in a letter dated October 16, 2009.

To help reduce the cost and delay of printing and mailing paper letters, all SNAPS users will begin receiving program-related correspondence solely via this system unless they notify TDA of their wish to continue receiving hard copies. If that is the case, contractors should contact TDA

- by telephone at 1-888-TEX-KIDS or 1-877-TEX-MEAL,
- by fax at 1-888-203-6593, or
- by mail at P.O. Box 12847 / Austin, Texas 78711-2847.



SquareMeals Updates/Mailouts, cont'd

Food Service Management Contracts

Food Service Management Company (FSMC) Documents for 2010-11 have been posted on www.SquareMeals.org under “For Child Nutrition Professionals” at www.SquareMeals.org/FSMC. This information was mailed to all SFAs that contract with an FSMC in a letter dated October 26, 2009.

Mandatory Summer Feeding in 2010

Texas law requires public school food authorities (SFAs) in Texas with 60 percent or more of the enrolled students eligible for free or reduced-price meals in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) to provide a summer nutrition program. SFAs that meet that threshold were informed of their obligation in a letter dated October 30, 2009. A copy of that letter, “ISD Letter 2010.pdf,” is attached. Charter and private schools that meet the threshold, while not required to participate in a summer program, were also encouraged to participate. A copy of that letter, “non-ISD Letter 2010.pdf,” is also attached. The lists of public, private, and charter schools that received a letter regarding summer feeding in 2010 are in the attached spreadsheet.

ARM Updates

Sections 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 8, 10, 13, 14, and 15 of the ARM have been updated. Please see the changes and the Update Guide on the “Administrators Reference Manual” page under the “For Child Nutrition Professionals” section on SquareMeals.org, or go to http://www.squaremeals.org/fn/render/channel/items/0,1249,2348_2387_0_0,00.html.

Funding Opportunities

Information about the Silent Hero grant from the got breakfast® foundation has been posted on Square Meals on the “Funding Resources” page under “Resources and to Order Materials.” The page also gives details about the Love Your Veggies grant from Hidden Valley®, which is due November 7. http://www.squaremeals.org/fn/render/channel/items/0,1249,2348_3059_0_0,00.html.



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