



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

January 15, 2018

Ms Mimi Spreen
Director Of Food Services
Palestine Isd
1007 E Park Ave
Palestine, TX 75801-4500

RE: Universal Breakfast Waiver for School Year (SY) 2018-2019

Dear Ms. Spreen:

Texas law (Education Code §33.901) requires public school or charter campuses with 80 percent or more of enrolled students eligible for free or reduced-price meals in the National School Lunch Program to provide breakfast at no cost to all students.

The attached list denotes the schools within your district which meet this requirement. These schools must provide breakfast at no cost to the students for School Year 2018-2019. Your intent to offer breakfast at no cost to students must be indicated in the district's National School Lunch Program (NSLP) application. The application will be available May 1, 2018.

Districts may seek an annual waiver by school to opt-out of this requirement. To start the waiver process the district must notify the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). This notification will be accomplished through an online form that will be located in TX-UNPS. TX-UNPS is the electronic system used to submit your application to participate in nutrition meal programs as well as file claims for meal reimbursement. Instructions regarding how to apply for the waiver are enclosed in this letter. **The waiver form will be available March 15, 2018 until June 30, 2018.**

To obtain a waiver, the district must ensure the following:

- The request to submit a waiver is approved (1) at a regular school board meeting or (2) by the governing body during an annual budget approval meeting.
- The decision to apply for a waiver must be a separate line item on the agenda for meeting described above.
- The school board or governing body must provide an opportunity for public comment before the decision is made at the school board meeting or governing body annual budget approval meeting.



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If you plan on offering breakfast at no cost to all students, you do not need to take any action right now; your intent to offer breakfast at no charge will be indicated in the district's NSLP application, which opens May 1, 2018.

There are federal provisions available to help your district offer breakfast at no charge. Federal regulations include alternatives to the traditional requirements for annual determinations of eligibility for free and reduced-price school meals and daily meal counts by type. This includes Special Assistance Provision 2 and the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) that allow schools to offer breakfast and/or lunch to students at no charge. These provisions reduce application burdens and simplify meal counting and claiming procedures. Schools must receive approval from TDA before participating in Provision 2 or CEP. Information on both of these programs can be located at www.squaremeals.org/CEP. You may also reach out to your Education Service Center to obtain additional insights into the benefits of these programs within your district as well as how to apply for either of these provisions for the upcoming school year.

Please visit www.squaremeals.org to learn more. If you have any questions about the programs, this requirement or the options outlined in this letter, please contact your Education Service Center representative.

We look forward to working with you to ensure students have access to a healthy breakfast, and we thank you for your partnership in this effort.

Sincerely yours,

Catherine Wright-Steele

Catherine Wright-Steele
Administrator
Food and Nutrition

CWS/MDG/nk

Enclosures

CC: Child Nutrition Director
Education Service Center

Texas Department of Agriculture
Enclosure 1: Universal Breakfast Waiver SY 2018-2019
January 15, 2018

CE Name: Palestine Isd
CE ID: 00005

Site Number	Site Name	Percentage Free and Reduced
0102	Washington Early Childhood Center	100.00
0110	Story El	83.03