THE MONTHLY REWIND

NOVEMBER 2025



EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER REGION 11
CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

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WHAT MUSIC DO YOU LISTEN TO WHEN COOKING FOR **THANKSGIVING**?

MEET OUR NSLP TEAM



JOCELYN KARBO





ELISHA BURY

MARY ANN KAMINSKI

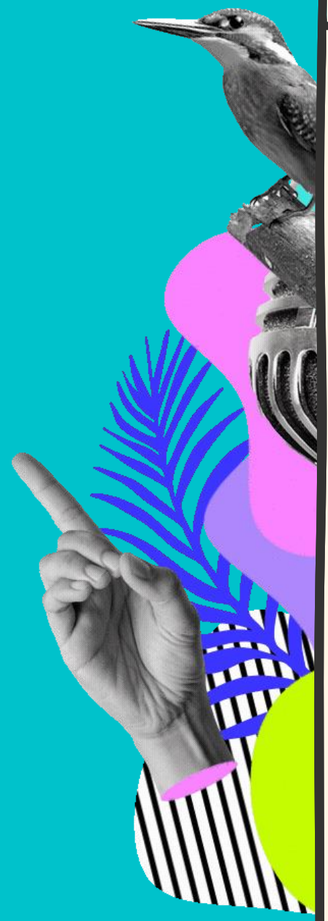




KIM NASH

LORAN PERRY





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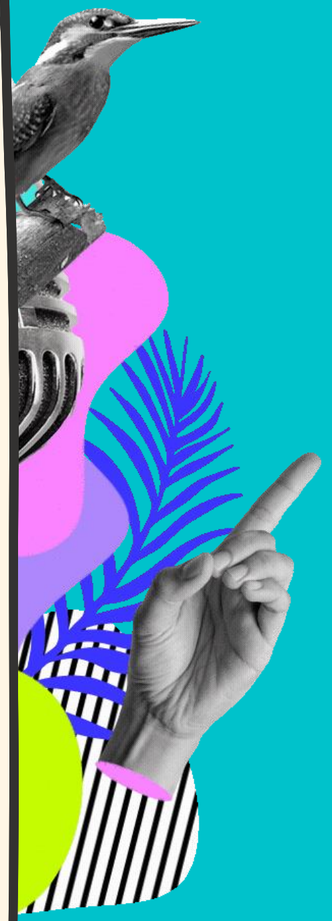




01.

TDA UPDATES & NEWS



TDA SAYS BUSINESS AS USUAL DURING GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

- Shutdown will not impact reimbursement for claimed meals
- *“Texas families can count on us. Whether it’s in a big city cafeteria or a small-town lunchroom, no child will be left to wonder if there’ll be a meal waiting for them at school. We will continue to work hand-in-hand with USDA, Secretary Brooke Rollins, the Trump Administration, and our local partners to make sure every student in Texas is fed. This is a promise we’ve made, and one we will keep.”* –Commissioner Sid Miller



DID YOU KNOW?

1. You are required to track non-domestic purchases as a percentage of total food cost, starting this year
2. The Food Production Record template shift took place last school year, but the AR will review it for findings this school year
3. In formal procurement, you cannot add past vendor relationship as a scoring criteria because it restricts full and open competition

UDSA FOODS UPDATE

- SY27 estimated entitlement may be ready in December
- WBSCM: Do NOT complete an FND-136 unless you are removing/adding a user administrator
  - Any changes to other types of accounts can be changed, added, or removed by the user administrator





CIVIL RIGHTS TRAINING

- The ICN Civil Rights training is down for the foreseeable future
- TDA is working on its own version of Civil Rights training

SUGGESTED ALTERNATE TRAININGS ONLINE:

- New York State Education Department video
- Lunch Assist video



CONGRATULATIONS!

- To the following ESC Region 11 CN staff who completed the entire series for Introduction to School Nutrition Leadership in SY24-25
  - **Debra Venable** (Azle ISD)
  - **Jamie Douangaphaivong** (Arlington Classics Academy)
  - **Lacy Powers** (Denton ISD)
  - **Stephanie Prcin** (Bluff Dale ISD)
  - **Yolanda Vitovsky** (Arlington Classics Academy)

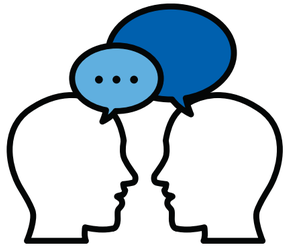
See the full list of awardees here.

Peer Growth Pathways

Grow Together. Lead Stronger.



Collaboration



Shared Learning



Growth



Leadership

What is it?

- A peer collaboration network for Directors
- Matched by strengths and growth areas
- Simple, 15-minute check-ins



Why It Matters?

- Learn from other Directors' real-world solutions
- Build leadership skills that strengthen your program
- Celebrate growth across ESC Region 11

Important Dates

Grow Together. Lead Stronger.



November 2025

Launch: **Thursday, November 13.**
Self-assessment is sent to your inboxes.

December 2025

Self-assessment **due Wednesday, December 17.**
Pairs announced by **Friday, December 19.**

January 2026

Check-in Window 1: January 6-30, 2026.
Focus: Introductions, shared goals, and pillar discussion using the Q1 prompt.
Complete Q1 Check-In Snapshot.

March 2026

Check-in Window 2: March 2-31, 2026.
Focus: Reflect on what's working, what's shifted since Q1, and identify one actionable next step to finish the year strong.
Complete Q2 Check-In Snapshot.

May 2026

Year-End Reflection: May 5-22, 2026.
Focus: Reflect on your year, how you have grown, and what you'll carry forward.
Complete Year-End Check-In Snapshot.



02.
SPOTLIGHT



USDA FOODS: USAGE ANALYSIS EXERCISE

Begins December 1

- Evaluates processing inventory levels 20% or less
- Non-responsive CEs will lose this entitlement and will not be allowed to reorder in SY26-27



WHAT CAN I DO?

1.

Monitor your processing usage in **K12 FoodService** and **Processor Link**

2.

You should draw down percentages at 10% per month – meaning you should be at 40% usage/60% remaining on Dec. 1

3.

If you are not drawing down, create an action plan and update your menu to use those products



03.

DEADLINES & REMINDERS

DON'T FORGET!

NOVEMBER

15 Verification Ends
17 FSMC RFP contract due to ESC
21 Verification Report Due
29 Farm Fresh Challenge Attestation Due

DECEMBER

5 TDA FSMC RFP Deadline

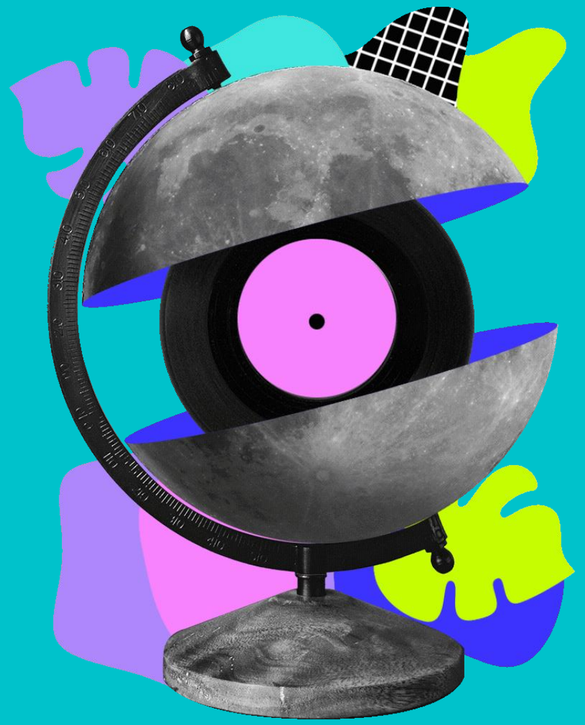
Reminder: FSMC renewals are due to your ESC specialist by Feb. 2
Find materials here





04.

ESC REGION 11 UPDATES



USDA FOODS FOR SCHOOLS: ORDERING FOR SUCCESS

Register for classes here.

DATE

NOVEMBER 19

TIME

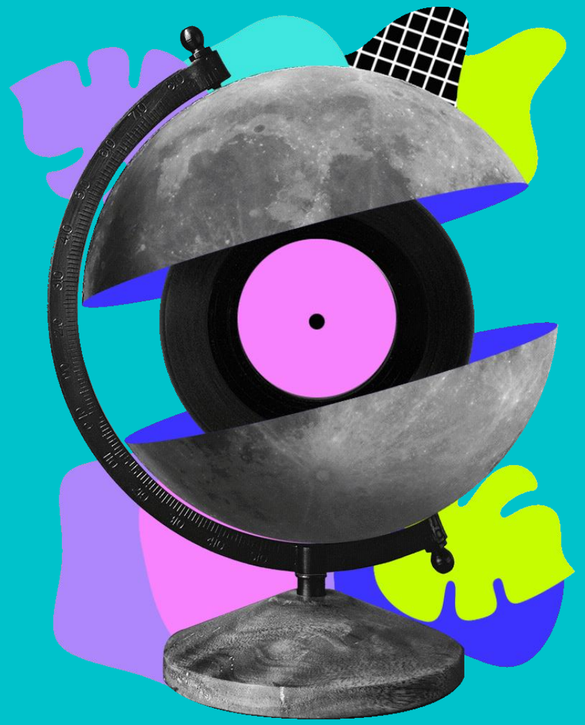
8:30 AM – 3:30 PM

DESCRIPTION

Learn strategies for maximizing USDA Foods entitlement and get an intro to WBSCM. This class will also feature a lab. Bring your laptop!

AUDIENCE

CN Directors, Menu Planners



INTRODUCTION TO SCHOOL NUTRITION LEADERSHIP: SESSION 2

Register for classes here.

DATE

DECEMBER 15

TIME

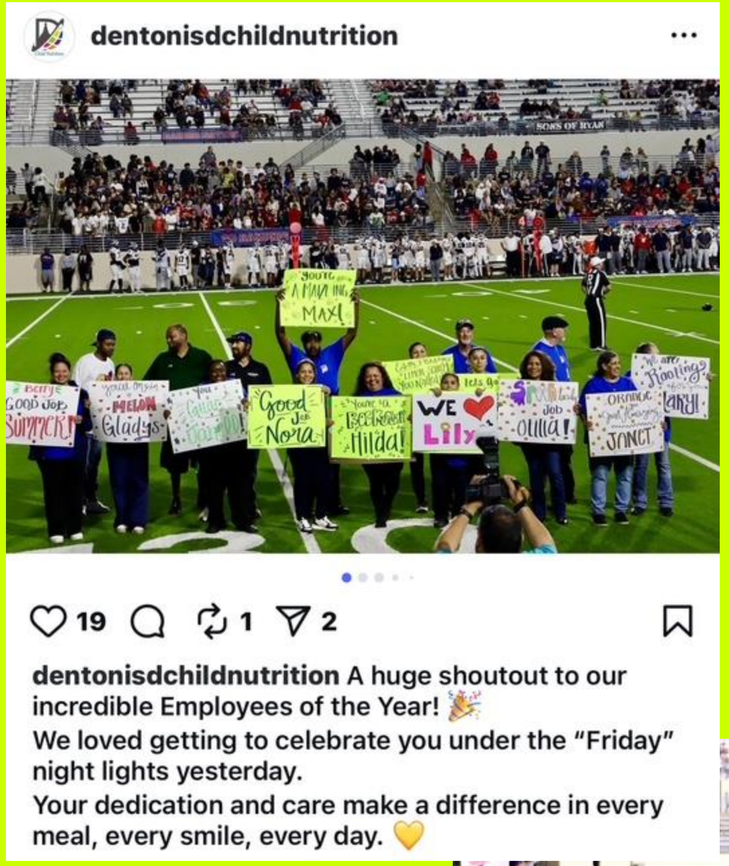
8:30 AM – 3:30 PM

DESCRIPTION

Join us for an 7-part series for the aspiring or new CN director. This second class will cover meal patterns in SNP.

AUDIENCE

District CN Directors, Aspiring CN Directors





DENTON ISD

- Honored CN staff members during a football game in October

LEWISVILLE ISD

- Chef Alicia Rivera demoed a fresh watermelon cucumber salad at Liberty Elementary School to celebrate the Farm Fresh Challenge



Watch it here.



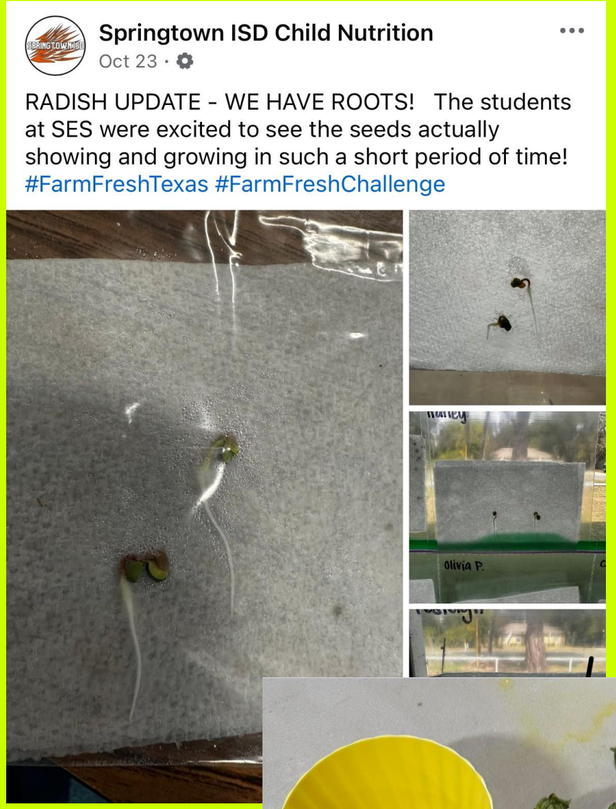


MANSFIELD ISD

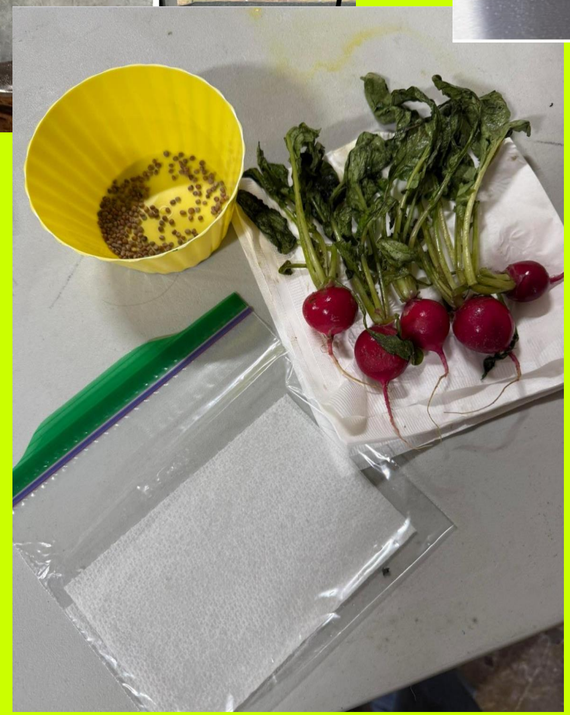
- Partnered with Out of School Time programs at second annual Gobble & Gather
- Shared info about child nutrition and nutrition resources
- Sampled Pumpkin Breakfast Bread

SPRINGTOWN ISD

- Participated in October's Farm Fresh Challenge
- Served different local foods and taste tested new recipes
- Taught 1st graders about radishes and 'planted' seeds on a wet paper towel to watch them grow









A copy of these slides will be available at
esc1.net/childnutrition

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

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To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

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Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
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(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
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Program.Intake@usda.gov

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