

TASN ews

Winter 2025, Vol. 21, No. 2

A Publication of the Texas Association for School Nutrition

HARDIN-JEFFERSON ISD IS CORPUS READY!





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Cleveland ISD



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Aldine ISD



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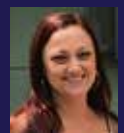
AREA REPRESENTATIVES



Chair of Area Representatives
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Area 7 Representative
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Area 8 Representative
Open Position
Contact TASN HQ if interested in this role



Area 9 Representative
Open Position
Contact TASN HQ if interested in this role



Area 10 Representative
Ramona Love
East Central ISD



Area 11 Representative
Chris Campbell
Seminole ISD



Area 12 Representative
Tina Brooks
Stratford ISD

TASN News

Winter 2025

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Happy New Year!

2025

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

WINTER 2025



Dear TASN members,

As winter settles in, it brings a natural time for reflection and gratitude. This season, we honor the remarkable contributions of our long-serving Executive Director, Karen Andrasi, whose

dedication and vision have shaped the Texas Association for School Nutrition into the strong, thriving organization it is today. Her decades of leadership, passion, and commitment to advancing our mission have been a guiding light for all of us.

While we celebrate Karen's legacy, we also look forward to building upon the solid foundation she helped create. Our mission to support school nutrition professionals in providing healthy, nourishing meals to Texas students remains as vital as ever. Together, we will continue to grow, innovate, and strengthen our collective impact.

This time of transition offers both comfort in our shared purpose and strength in our community. TASN is not defined by one individual but by all of us working together to make a difference in the lives of those we serve. I am confident in our ability to navigate this new chapter with resilience and determination.

As we look ahead to the new year, I encourage you to stay engaged, share your ideas, and support one another. Our association's greatest strength lies in its members, and together, we will carry forward the incredible legacy of leadership and service that defines TASN.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful new year.

Warm regards,
Lacy Willey
Cleveland ISD
President, Texas Association for School Nutrition

IMPORTANT DATES

TASN 2025 Partnership Collaboration Summit (PCS)	January 27–29, 2025	Rockwall, Texas
TASN Awards and Scholarships Registration Deadline	February 15, 2025	
TASN Call for Presentations	February 15, 2025	
TASN 2025 Administrative Academy	February 19–20, 2025	Austin, Texas
TASN 2025 Board/Committee Meetings	February 20–21, 2025	Austin, Texas
TASN 2025-2026 Election	March 3– April 3, 2025	
TASN 2025 Annual Conference	June 22–25, 2025	Corpus Christi, Texas
TASN 2026 Annual Conference	June 27–30, 2026	Grapevine, Texas

Greetings from TASN President-Elect Susan D'Amico



Dear TASN members,

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season, filled with relaxation, joy, and quality time with loved ones. I'm grateful for the time I spent with family and friends, and I hope you were able to do the same.

As we kick off the new year, I'm excited to share the progress TASN has made over the past few months. The first part of the TASN Administrative Academy took place in October and was very well-attended. In December, TASN leaders from across the state gathered in Austin to participate in a comprehensive strategic planning session. These planning sessions occur every three years, ensuring that TASN stays focused on our goals and continues moving forward. The results of this meeting will be shared with you all very soon, and we're eager to continue building on the great work already in motion.

I am proud to be part of such a dedicated TASN board working to accomplish amazing things. A particularly exciting development in recent months is our new TASN website – I encourage you to visit [TASN.net](https://www.tasn.net) to explore the features. We're also ramping up our social media presence with fun videos, updates, and contests, so be sure to follow us for the latest updates and opportunities to engage.

In addition, I'm excited about the Partnership Collaboration Summit (PCS) which will take place in Rockwall. Our TASN Vice President, John Ceballos, and the PCS Planning Committee have a memorable experience planned which will include excellent keynote speakers, engaging breakout sessions, and a dueling piano evening

event. At PCS, we will also launch initiatives related to the Rising Stars program, including mentorship opportunities for new school nutrition professionals.

Looking ahead, Early Bird registration for the [TASN 2025 Annual Conference](#) is now open! This year's conference theme is *High Tides and Good Vibes*, and we can't wait to gather in Corpus Christi for an unforgettable event. We've got the amazing Jeff Joiner as our keynote speaker, plus a fantastic lineup of classes, events, and vendors for the food and equipment show. Our party at the Industry Evening will feature the famous Spazmatics! They are sure to have us dancing and singing along to every tune. Plan to wear tropical attire, or if you prefer, lean into the nerdy fun inspired by the Spazmatics. Either way, we know it will be a night to remember.

Thank you for all that you do to make a positive impact on the lives of Texas students, staff, and fellow TASN members. Your dedication is inspiring, and I'm honored to represent this incredible community. I look forward to seeing you in Corpus Christi!

Warm regards,
Susan D'Amico
Aldine ISD
TASN President-Elect

Greetings from TASN Vice President John Ceballos



Reflecting on Success and Preparing for the Year Ahead

As we have just closed out another year, I want to take a moment to reflect on all that we have accomplished together as an association and how we can prepare

ourselves mentally for the year ahead.

This year, TASN surpassed a significant milestone — our association is now over 6,000 members strong. This achievement speaks to the dedication of our members and the value of our collective work. Alongside this, we completed our strategic planning process and set clear priorities for the next three years. This roadmap will guide us toward even greater success, and I am truly inspired to hit the ground running to share these priorities with all of you.

Of course, no year is without its challenges. Migrating to a new website and database was no small feat, but through teamwork and perseverance, we've done an incredible job navigating these changes. These moments remind us of the power of collaboration, resilience, and feedback.

As we prepare for the year ahead, I encourage all of you to take time for reflection and reset—individually and as teams. Seek feedback, celebrate your successes, and take mental breaks when needed. Appreciation and self-care are essential to staying energized and focused on our goals.

This year, I have had the honor of working alongside our fearless President, Lacy Willey, President-

Elect Susan D'Amico, and Past President Michael Francis. Their leadership and unwavering commitment to TASN have shown me that no challenge is too big when we work together as a team. Their example has inspired me to give my all, and I hope it inspires you, too.

Looking ahead, I'm especially excited for our first TASN event of the year, the Partnership Collaboration Summit (PCS)—an event where we will come together to share our collective Wealth of Wisdom. This event will be an incredible opportunity to collaborate, learn, and inspire one another as we work toward our shared goals. The TASN 2025 PCS will take place January 27-29, 2025, at the Rockwall Hilton Hotel.

I believe our members will align with our new strategic goals and feel energized to get involved. Whether through volunteering, advocacy, or lending your voice, I encourage you to seize these opportunities to make a difference. Together, we are stronger. Together, we will accomplish incredible things.

Here's to a bright year ahead!
John Ceballos
Klein ISD
TASN Vice President



Greetings from Area 5 Representative

Suellen Atteberry, Garland ISD



Hello and Happy New Year!

I hope that your holiday season was filled with family, friends, and great food! We live in North Texas and rarely see snow, but we always hope for a bit of the glistening white stuff to fall from the sky.

Unfortunately, we usually get freezing rain or sleet instead. Either way, it shuts this town down. Let's face it: we do not know how to drive on frozen roads. I used to know, but that was when I was younger and thought I could do anything. I am older and maybe a bit wiser now and I do not drive on frozen roads. I hope that your holiday seasons were safe and pleasant and that you were able to rest up! The new calendar year is here, and we all know what that means: resolutions!

Why not make a resolution that is easy to achieve? Become a member of TASN! You will gain insight into the most current information and trends in child nutrition! It's easy to do! Need to know how? [Give me a shout](#) and I can help get you set up and on your way. Want an even easier way to join us? Visit the newly designed [TASN website!](#)

KNOW YOUR AREA REPRESENTATIVE

Do you know who your TASN Area Representative is? TASN Area Representatives are there to help you grow your chapter, connect you with resources, and answer any questions you may have about the association. They are your go-to people for all things TASN, so don't hesitate to reach out to them anytime! Click [here](#) to find your Area Rep!

STAY UP TO DATE



DON'T MISS OUT!

The start of a new year is a great time to make sure your contact info and membership are up to date!

Click [here](#) to log in to your TASN account to update your info and verify your membership status. Don't miss out on important TASN news and opportunities!

One reason to log in to your account: you must have an active TASN website account in order to register for TASN events, like the Annual Conference!



TASN 2025-2026 ELECTION

SLATE OF CANDIDATES

On the next few pages you will find the slate of candidates for the TASN 2025-2026 Board of Directors election. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the members who will lead your organization for the next one or two years.

Voting will take place from March 3 - April 3, 2025.

You must be an active member as of January 31, 2025, to be eligible to vote.

More details and voting instructions will be released in the coming weeks.

Thank you to all the individuals who have offered to serve and help lead TASN into the future.



VICE PRESIDENT ONE YEAR TERM



MAGGIE MAE KENNEDY

*Assistant Director of Child Nutrition
Spring Branch ISD*

Maggie Mae Kennedy just completed her 12th school year in child nutrition. During that time, she has served in roles in Houston ISD and Galena Park ISD, and is currently the Assistant Director of Child Nutrition at Spring Branch ISD in Houston, Texas.

She has contributed in the development and execution of the manager training program, L.E.A.D. and Leading Impact. Kennedy designed and implemented the current processes to streamline onboarding and training for incoming Operations Managers in the Nutrition Services Department, which has reduced early turnover complications and labor required to onboard.

Maggie Mae is currently serving as a committee member on the Public Policy and Legislative Committee for the Texas Association of School Nutrition and previously served on the Membership Committee for SNA.

She is dedicated to the development of her team and the K-12 school nutrition community and works diligently towards building herself and those around her while being an active member of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Texas Association of School Nutrition, and SNA.



JENNIFER MILLER

*Director of Student Nutrition Services
Garland ISD*

Jennifer Miller currently serves as the Director of Student Nutrition Services for Garland ISD. Jennifer has been with Garland ISD since 2009. Prior to serving as Director, she was the Assistant Director of Nutrition and Menu Operations and an Operations Training Supervisor.

Jennifer's career began in the restaurant industry. During her ten-year restaurant career, Jennifer held multiple positions. Her focuses were operations, training, marketing, and public relations.

Jennifer received her Bachelor's Degree in Dietetics and Institutional Administration from Texas Women's University and her Masters of Business Administration from Western Governors University.

The School Nutrition Association also certifies her as a School Nutrition Specialist. Jennifer is an active member of the Culinary Institute of America's Healthy Kids Collaborative, School Nutrition Association, Texas School Nutrition Association, and American Commodity Distribution Association.

SECRETARY/TREASURER TWO YEAR TERM



SAMANTHA MIMS

*Assistant Director of Child Nutrition
Cypress-Fairbanks ISD*

In her current role as Assistant Director of Nutrition Services, Samantha Mims plays a pivotal role in shaping the strategic direction and daily operations of the nutrition services department. With a focus on program management and oversight, she is responsible for ensuring that the department runs smoothly and effectively. Her responsibilities also extend to handling employee-related issues and overseeing the recruitment process, demonstrating her leadership skills and her ability to manage a diverse team.

Samantha's educational background in Human Resources contributes a unique perspective to her role in nutrition services. Her knowledge in HR enhances her ability to manage the personnel aspects of the department, including employee relations, recruitment, and professional development.

Teaching TASN Classes: Samantha's role as a teacher for Texas Association for School Nutrition (TASN) classes for managers underscores her expertise and commitment to the professional growth of others in the field. Her involvement in teaching reflects her dedication to elevating standards and practices within nutrition services.

Committee Involvement: Samantha serves on the TASN Education Committee, further demonstrating her commitment to shaping educational initiatives within the field. Her involvement in this committee indicates her active role in influencing and improving the standards of school nutrition services in Texas.

Years of Experience: 8 years in various roles within nutrition services

Samantha Mims' career is marked by a steady progression from front-line roles to leadership positions within the nutrition services field. Her hands-on experience is complemented by her educational background and her active participation in professional development. Through her teaching and committee work, Samantha has shown a strong commitment to the broader professional community, making her a valuable asset to the field of nutrition services.

NO OPPOSING CANDIDATE

PUBLIC POLICY & LEGISLATION CHAIR

TWO YEAR TERM



DARIN CRAWFORD

*Assistant Superintendent for Support Services
Cypress-Fairbanks ISD*

TASN Member: 15 years | **SNA Member:** 13 years

TASN Positions Held:

PP&L Co-Chair, PP&L Chair, Vice President, President-Elect, President, Organizational Affairs Chair

TASN Presentations Given:

I have presented at TASN on legislative action and Human Resources. I have also taught leadership at Directors Academy.

Education/Certifications:

I have a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Louisiana Monroe and a Bachelors of Science from the University of New Orleans.

Other Information You Would Like to Include:

Child Nutrition is my passion. It is the reason I continue to work in public education.

Goals for Office:

I want all students to be able to eat at no charge. I want there to be no stigma associated with eating a healthy school meal. I want to help our members be involved in the work that will be required to make these goals a reality.

NO OPPOSING CANDIDATE

AREA 1 REPRESENTATIVE TWO YEAR TERM



MARIO MONJARAS

*Food Service Director
Beeville ISD*

With over 12 years of experience in the Child Nutrition industry, including 8 years in management and 6 years in child nutrition programs, I have built a career focused on enhancing the quality and efficiency of school nutrition services. I started my journey in child nutrition as a cook helper in 2012, where I quickly advanced through several roles, demonstrating my dedication and expertise in food service. In 2014, I was honored to be grandfathered in as the Child Nutrition Director at Pettus ISD, and I've continued to expand my impact in Beeville ISD, where I currently lead as the Food Service Director.

Throughout my career, I have spearheaded several innovative initiatives to promote healthy eating and nutrition education among students. In Beeville ISD, I led the successful establishment of school gardens, providing students with hands-on learning opportunities in growing fresh produce and connecting them with the food they eat. I've also introduced grab-and-go meal lines, a strategic move to make nutritious meals more accessible and convenient, especially during busy school days.

My extensive experience managing federally funded programs like the National School Lunch Program, procedures like Smart Snacks, and local wellness policies ensures that our operations consistently align with state and federal guidelines while maximizing resources. I am also adept at budget management, ensuring that we deliver high-quality services within our financial constraints.

Looking forward, I am excited to continue driving positive change within the community, with a strong focus on fostering healthier eating habits and implementing innovative food service strategies. My vision is to not only improve the quality of meals served in schools but also to create a culture where students and staff value and understand the importance of nutrition in their daily lives.

NO OPPOSING CANDIDATE

AREA 3 REPRESENTATIVE TWO YEAR TERM



TERESA EVANS

*Director of Child Nutrition
Crosby ISD*

Teresa Evans is an accomplished Director of Nutrition Services with 19 years of dedicated experience in managing school nutrition programs and financial operations. Holding a Master of Science in Management, with a specialization in Operations and Organizational Culture, she blends academic knowledge with hands-on experience to make a real difference in her community.

Currently, Teresa successfully directs nutrition services for Crosby ISD, implementing innovative strategies that prioritize fresh, nutritious meals while ensuring adherence to federal and state guidelines. She is a proud TASN Administrative Academy graduate, a Level 5 Certified TASN Administrator, and holds a CTSBS in accounting from the Texas Association of School Business Officials (TASBO). She continually encourages improvement and professional development for herself and all members of her team.

Teresa believes in the power of teamwork and fosters a collaborative atmosphere in which everyone can grow and develop. Her involvement as a committee member for the TASN Education Committee and the Harris County Health and Human Services Advisory Board, showcases her dedication to her field. She enjoys collaborating with other nutrition professionals and frequently teaches courses on ethical leadership and financial operation best practices.

Outside of work, Teresa loves to explore new culinary adventures and travel, always looking for fresh insights and experiences. She's passionate about building a positive and supportive work environment, where excellence in nutrition services is a shared goal. As the TASN Area 3 Representative, her mission is to meet, connect, and lend a voice to each member she represents, ensuring their needs and perspectives are heard and valued. She's excited for the opportunity to represent TASN members and make a larger impact in the k12 nutrition community.

NO OPPOSING CANDIDATE

AREA 5 REPRESENTATIVE TWO YEAR TERM



SUELLEN ATTEBERRY

*Supervisor Special Projects
Garland ISD*

TASN Member for: 9 years | **SNA Member for:** 9 years

TASN Positions Held: Area 5 Representative

Education/Certifications:

ServSafe instructor/proctor

National/state/local PTA lifetime member

PTA Extended Service Award

Garland ISD Council of PTAs president

Organized, implemented, successfully completed National PTA School of Excellence Program for Garland ISD Council of PTAs

Other Information You'd Like to Include:

Creative junkie, natural leader and go-getter, highly organized, and I get the job done. I enjoy building successful teams.

Goals for Office:

Engage employees & encourage participation in training and events. Establish new schools and districts for TASN in Area 5.

NO OPPOSING CANDIDATE

AREA 11 REPRESENTATIVE

TWO YEAR TERM



CHRIS CAMPBELL

*Director of Food Services
Seminole ISD*

CHILD NUTRITION EXPERIENCE

Lubbock, Texas - Kitchen Manager

August 2020 - Current

Planned USDA menu plans with up to 7 different offerings for lunch and 3 for breakfast. Ordering and Inventory management. Consistently able to meet cost per plate and monthly budget goals. Staff training.

SKILLS

Microsoft Office Certified

CPR Certified

Food Safety Manager Certified.

TABC Certified

B.A.S Human Services

VOLUNTEERING

Boys and Girls Club - Lubbock, Texas

United Way - Lubbock, Texas

Ronald McDonald House - Lubbock, Texas

St. Lukes Methodist - Lubbock, Texas

SFE - Lubbock, Texas

AWARDS

Presidents List WBU

Phi Theta Kappa

NO OPPOSING CANDIDATE

**Congrats to Hardin-Jefferson ISD
for winning the Corpus Ready
photo contest!**



ARE YOU **CORPUS READY?**

TASN 2025 Annual Conference • June 22-25, 2025 • Corpus Christi

Thanks to Hardin-Jefferson ISD, Aldine ISD, Corpus Christi ISD, Frankston ISD, and Gregory-Portland ISD for showing us that you're ready for *High Tides and Good Vibes!* We can't wait to see you all in Corpus Christi this June for the TASN 2025 Annual Conference!



Aldine SNA



Frankston ISD

TASN 2025

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

Corpus Christi ISD

Are you
CORPUS READY?

Gregory-Portland ISD





TASN 2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

JUNE 22-25, 2025 | CORPUS CHRISTI

Good Vibes in Corpus Christi

**EARLY BIRD
REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN!**

**DEADLINE:
APRIL 30**



Join Us in Corpus!

Join TASN, fellow ISD food service professionals, and industry partners as we come together to shape, build, and support for K-12 child nutrition programs across Texas.

2025 Annual Conference sessions and exhibits will be located in the American Bank Center.

Who Should Attend?

The TASN Annual Conference is a valuable educational and networking opportunity for all ISD K-12 food service employees, specialist, managers, directors, supervisors, superintendents, stakeholders, and industry partners. We hope to see you there!

Why You Should Attend

During this four-day event, you'll experience inspirational keynote speakers and attend sessions designed to generate ideas you can implement in your district. You will also have the opportunity to meet our exhibitors and explore the exhibit hall, network with like-minded professionals, and take some time to enjoy the good vibes!

REGISTER NOW

American Bank Center

The [American Bank Center](#) will host the TASN 2025 Annual Conference exhibits and learning sessions.

The American Bank Center is the official convention center of Corpus Christi. This state-of-the-art convention center, featuring a total of 138,000 square feet of meeting and exhibit space, overlooks the sparkling Corpus Christi Bay.



Omni Corpus Christi



The deadline to book your room under the TASN Annual Conference rate is May 30, 2025.

Located near the beach and in the vibrant downtown Marina District, Omni Corpus Christi Hotel has a stylish rooftop restaurant, outdoor pool, and stunning views of Corpus Christi Bay. Discover upscale hotel rooms and suites with bay-view balconies along the Texas coast. Enjoy the hotel's salon, fitness center, racquetball courts, and an array of dining options.

Rates: Deluxe King or Double Room \$179

[RESERVE ROOM](#)

Schedule at a Glance

(Tentative and subject to change)

SUNDAY JUNE 22, 2025

Registration	10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
SNS Exam	1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Rehearsals	3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Board of Directors Dinner	6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

MONDAY JUNE 23, 2025

Scenic Walk from Omni Bayfront Hotel	7:00 AM
Exhibitors Move in	7:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Registration	8:00 AM - Noon
Annual Meeting	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
First General Session	10:00 AM - 11:15 AM
Lunch/Installation/Awards	11:30 AM - 1:45 PM
Learning Sessions	2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

TUESDAY JUNE 24, 2025

Exhibits Open for Decision-Makers	9:15 AM - 1:00 PM
Second General Session: TDA	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
Learning Sessions for Non Decision-Makers	8:00 AM - Noon
Learning Sessions for All	2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Industry Evening Event & Dinner	6:00 PM - 10:00 PM
<i>Dinner</i>	<i>6:00 PM - 8:00 PM</i>
<i>Event</i>	<i>8:00 PM - 10:00 PM</i>

WEDNESDAY JUNE 25, 2025

First Executive Committee Meeting	8:00 AM - 9:30 AM
Exhibits Open To All	9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
First Board of Directors Meeting	1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Keynote Speakers

JEFF JOINER FIRST GENERAL SESSION

Jeff doesn't give "speeches." He shares stories, experiences, and examples that capture the imagination and attention of the audience. Jeff takes a humorous approach to serious workplace challenges. His stories and energetic delivery style often has the audience roaring with laughter. Jeff has worked with hundreds of organizations in dozens of industries, and can bring a unique perspective to your organization's challenges and goals. This leads to breakthroughs in learning, growth, and performance.



LENA WILSON SECOND GENERAL SESSION

Lena is the Assistant Commissioner for the Food and Nutrition Division at the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). She oversees all activities related to compliance with regulations for the 12 federal nutrition programs administered by the agency. Lena, a registered dietitian, has more than 20 years of experience with federal nutrition programs. She has worked at the state and local level with every USDA nutrition assistance program. Her background also includes 13 years as a director of school meal programs. Lena offers a practical look at operations from differing perspectives to apply a common-sense approach for program oversight.



Industry Evening Event

One of the most anticipated and memorable events at the TASN Annual Conference is the Industry Evening Event. The event will take place at the American Bank Center, where attendees will enjoy dinner followed by dancing the night away. We couldn't be more excited to be able to bring The Spazmatics as this year's entertainment. If you haven't yet experienced the energy, humor, and joy of the Spazmatics, you really don't want to miss this event. **The Spazmatics really know how to bring the good vibes!**

Spazmatics



Register Today



Early Bird registration is now open! Take advantage of this discounted registration and receive a T-shirt, too!

THE EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT DEADLINE IS APRIL 30, 2025.

ACTIVE MEMBER REGISTRATION

RETIRED MEMBER REGISTRATION

Event registration requires logging in to your TASN account

LEARN MORE



TASN ANNUAL CONFERENCE CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

TASN is currently seeking speakers for the 2025 Annual Conference in Corpus Christi, Texas, June 22-25, 2025. If you are interested in presenting a learning session, please check out the guidelines below and apply to be a speaker!

The deadline to apply is February 15, 2025.

CALL FOR PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

The TASN Conference Planning Committee is looking for speakers to present educational sessions that focus on key areas and topics relevant to school nutrition including but not limited to:

Menu Planning
Special Diets
Reimbursable Meals
Farm to School
Food Safety
Bid Specification
Summer Feeding
Kitchen Equipment
Leadership
Customer Service

Listening Skills
Personnel Skills
Emotional Intelligence
Communication Practices
Leadership/ Team Building
Recruiting and Retaining
Employees
Innovative Standardized
Recipes
Inventory Best Practices

AI Tools
Marketing/ Social Media
Legislative
Staff Management
Menu Management
Maintenance
Innovating Serving
Commodity Processing
Connected Kitchens

Submission deadline: February 15th

**Notification of acceptance with
Presentation date and time: March 1st**

Presenters of successful submissions will be required to confirm their participation and provide presentation materials (PowerPoint presentations, handouts, etc) for review by **April 3rd**.

FULL DETAILS & GUIDELINES



Calling all Volunteers!

We can't wait for the *High Tides and Good Vibes* at the TASN Annual Conference this June in Corpus Christi – but we will need plenty of help!

THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN!

Sign up to volunteer and play an important role in making the event a success. Some of the areas in which we need help are:

**Registration counter • traffic control • moderating • ribbon booth
learning session assistance • prepping, hand-outs • general assistance • and more!**

If you can offer your help, we can find a place to use it! Please reach out to Eric Vicharelli, TASN Education/Membership Manager, at ericv@tasn.net.



NSLP COMPLIANT

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Chapter News

Area 3

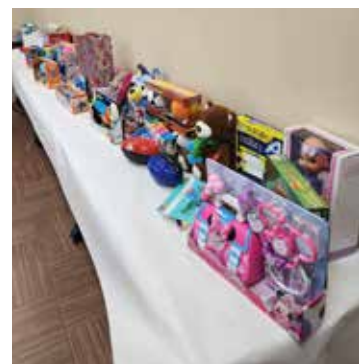
Aldine SNA

Aldine SNA experienced a very eventful and productive fall season. The association hosted an ASNA TASN workshop, bringing together participants from various districts for collaboration and professional development. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, Aldine SNA participated in the district's annual Turkey Trot, where members walked, ran, jogged, and had a fantastic time, demonstrating our commitment to health, wellness, and camaraderie.

To support the local community, the association organized a successful yard sale with the assistance of its dedicated members, showcasing our commitment to community engagement. Additionally, Aldine SNA prepared and baked its renowned Aldine SNA pecan pies with enthusiasm. These pies, crafted with love, were sold as part of our annual fundraiser, with child nutrition members eagerly supporting our efforts.

We also had our general meeting and Christmas celebration on December 12th, which included a toy drive. We had lots of fun!

Each of these events not only created cherished memories but also forged lasting bonds and friendships among members and the community. Together, they made us stronger and more united as an association, leaving a legacy of teamwork and connection that will endure for years to come.



Chapter News

Area 3

Tomball ISD

Howdy, from Tomball, Texas, home of your “Plateful” experience.

What a year it was for the Tomball ISD chapter of TASN. We started off our 2024 in March with one of our biggest fundraising events, our community garage sale. This is one of our favorite fundraisers. It is a chance for all our members to come together as a team to help us earn money to go to the Annual Conference. This one always brings in a ton of funds for our chapter. It is also a lot of fun to meet members of the community and for us as members to hang out and get to know each other better.

Thanks to the success of the garage sale, we were able to send 15 members to the TASN Annual Conference. What a blast we all had, too! In June our chapter President, Aaron Boner, and chapter Vice President, Lezlie Davis, helped to coordinate the return of the counter contest. I, Kristen Thomas-Arnold, chapter Secretary, got to welcome the different teams and get to know them before heading into the room to start decorating. I loved talking to the ladies and gentlemen who work throughout Texas. It was fun to see how they all worked together and cheered for their teams as they raced the clock to make an epic counter design! Our ladies Ivette Wells, Angela Cook, and Cecelia Moreno won Best Secondary counter for the contest. So glad to see the return of the counter contest, and we here at TISD hope it sticks around for many years to come.

Another exciting thing to happen during our time at the conference was the awards received by two of our wonderful Tomball TASN members this year. Our AMAZING Director of Child Nutrition, Whitney Johnson, received the Participation Increase award, and Wendy Hewson won Elementary School Manager of the year. We also all had a ton of fun at the industry event. We took advantage of all the fun games, the wonderful food, and of course the dancing. This conference was a hard one to top, but we can't wait to see what Corpus and the High Tides have to offer.

Thank you, as always, to the many people and all the board members that always make TASN conferences a great time to remember. See you all this summer!



Chapter News

Area 5

Garland ISD

The newly reorganized Garland chapter of TASN has been busy getting up and going! Our first event was a fun walk in November, where the chapter gained some new members! The event was successful and they raised funds for future endeavors.

Garland ISD SNS enjoyed serving our students a Thanksgiving meal on November 20th. All the traditional Thanksgiving comfort foods were on

the menu. Chef Kevin created signature recipes for cranberry sauce and green bean casserole. It was great to see our committed staff prepare the meal and serve students, parents and district staff. We are thankful to have this opportunity to serve our community.

Finally, we enjoyed a fun-filled holiday party. Happy New Year!



Eagle Mountain Saginaw ISD

It was a very busy fall for us here at EMS-ISD, and as we headed into November and December, we served holiday meals (the classic turkey dinner, turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls and cinnamon apples) to the students, staff and parents of our district. The way the children's faces light up when their parents come to eat with them is just the best. Our CN staff works very hard to make this a success, as it has been for last several years.

We do fundraisers each year to benefit our scholarship fund. We supported several students with scholarships to help with college expenses and we look forward to supporting many more in the future. This year we did a bake sale offering homemade banana nut bread. It was a huge success!



TASN IS NOW 6,000 STRONG!

As of October 2024, TASN now officially has more than 6,000 members - professionals like you who work every day to provide healthy nourishment to children across the state. With more members comes more networking, more advocacy, greater value for events, and more community support. Thank you for helping make TASN the robust and strong association it is today!





TASN CHAPTERS CELEBRATE

Here are just some of the ways our members celebrated National School Lunch Week in October, when the theme was *Find Your Treasure!*



Cypress-Fairbanks ISD



Dickinson ISD

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK



Lamar CISD



Garland ISD
(Click for video!)



San Marcos CISD



EDUCATION UPDATE

by **Kasandra Davis**
Brenham ISD
TASN Education Chair



We spent two amazing days in Austin at the TASN Administrative Academy, where 32 professionals came together to learn, collaborate, and grow.

From marketing strategies and financial management to food service equipment and the National School

Lunch Program, Kasandra Davis, Jennifer Miller, Duane Guidry, and Susan D'Amico shared valuable

insights with future child nutrition administrators. Everyone is excited to apply all we've learned!

Administrative Academy attendees will complete the academy in February and will take an exam. Graduates of the academy will be announced this June at the [TASN 2025 Annual Conference](#).

Upcoming Certification Classes

Sheldon ISD: February 1, 2025, & February 8, 2025

Klein ISD: February 22, 2025, & March 1, 2025 »

Contact for class registration: [Nimira Dodhia](#)

Aldine ISD: April 5, 2025, & April 12, 2025

Cypress-Fairbanks ISD: April 19, 2025, & April 26, 2025



TASN ADMINISTRATIVE ACADEMY FALL 2024

TASN SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS


Deadline: February 15, 2025



TASN is excited to continue awarding members for their excellence in the child nutrition field and granting scholarships for those pursuing a higher education within the nutrition scope! Nominate someone or a district for one of the scholarships or awards below! **Reach out to me** if you have any questions!

Eric Vicharelli
TASN Education/Membership Manager




TASN SCHOLARSHIPS


-  General Scholarship
-  ESL Scholarship
-  GED Scholarship
-  College Scholarship
-  Administrative Academy Scholarship
-  Managers Academy Scholarship
-  Partnership Collaboration Summit Scholarship

 Click [HERE](#) for more info & to apply for a TASN scholarship

 **Deadline: February 15, 2025**

TASN AWARDS

-  TASN Membership Award
-  Local Plan of Action Award
-  School Nutrition Specialist of the Year
-  School Nutrition Manager of the Year
-  School Nutrition Director of the Year
-  Partnership in Nutrition
-  Nutrition Education Award
-  Breakfast Participation Award
-  Lunch Participation Award
-  Outstanding Achievement Award for Continuing Education
-  Certification Award

 Click [HERE](#) for more info & to apply for a TASN award

 **Deadline: February 15, 2025**

NEW TASN CERTIFICATIONS

November 2023 – November 2024

LEVEL ONE

Leticia Acosta, Houston ISD
Monica Acosta, Aldine ISD
Anabel Aguilar, Houston ISD
Alan Alexander, Channelview ISD
Katherine Alexander, Channelview ISD
Courtney Allen, New Caney ISD
Rosa Almanza, Garland ISD
Blanca Anaya, Ector County ISD
Millia Andrade, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD
Mary Arias, Sheldon ISD
Silvia Baca Moncada, Houston ISD
Roy Bell, Garland ISD
Juanita Bell, Garland ISD
Brenda Berrones, Galena Park ISD
Socorro Berumen, Garland ISD
Mikiko Bland, Klein ISD
Martha Bolanos, Houston ISD
Yeilinn Bonifacio, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD
Maria Briserio, Garland ISD
Kendra Broussard, Aldine ISD
Sandra Burciaga, Garland ISD
Noach Byrd, Dripping Springs ISD
Angelica Caldwell, Dripping Springs ISD
Sonia Calvo, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD
Maria Campos, Garland ISD
Maria Campos, North East ISD
Brenda Caraballo, Garland ISD
Brenda Carrizales, North East ISD
Maria Castaneda, Garland ISD
Norma Castro, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD
Veronica Castro, Aldine ISD
Carlos Castro, Aldine ISD
Carmen Cecilia Gracia Mejia, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD
Nadia Cervantes Salazar, Aldine ISD
Melissa Chapa, Pasadena ISD
Daysi Chavez, Aldine ISD
Wubit Chefik, Garland ISD
Cassandra Clarke, Garland ISD
Lacy Coleman, Dripping Springs ISD
Timothy Crawford, Garland ISD
Cheryl Crawley, Willis ISD
Hermila Cruz, Dripping Springs ISD
Ana Davila, Garland ISD
Lezlie Davis, Tomball ISD
Elva De la garza, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD
Maria De Santiago, Galena Park ISD
Amanda Deaton, Garland ISD
Maria Delouche, Dripping Springs ISD
Maria DeMary, Huffman ISD
Lori Dickson, Garland ISD
Paulette Eaglin, Spring ISD

Stephanie Egli, Dripping Springs ISD
Paola Esparza de Calderon, Aldine ISD
Ariana Espinosa Guzman, North East ISD
Teresa Espinoza, Brazosport ISD
Martha Espinoza, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD
Wyemia Evans, Aldine ISD
Martha Fantu, Garland ISD
Maria Fraire, College Station ISD
Antje Frauenheim, Garland ISD
Viviana Galnares, Aldine ISD
Sylvia Garcia, Garland ISD
Sylvia Garza, Pasadena ISD
Yolanda Garza, Aldine ISD
Mekdes Gebremariam, Garland ISD
Galina Glenn, Garland ISD
Amber Goodwin, Garland ISD
Rachel Greer, Barbers Hill ISD
Badai Gumwamtie, Garland ISD
Fidencia Gutierrez, Ector County ISD
Kayla Hall, Dripping Springs ISD
Patricia Hardy, Garland ISD
Diedria Harris, Aldine ISD
Yolanda Henderson, Garland ISD
Vicky Henderson, Sweeny ISD
Maribel Hernandez, Garland ISD
Maritza Hernandez, Garland ISD
Raquel Hernandez, Pasadena ISD
Estefany Hernandez, Aldine ISD
Julia Hernandez-Moreno, Garland ISD
Victor Herrera, Garland ISD
Rene Hill, Houston ISD
Sandra Hoag, Garland ISD
Gabriela Holguin, Ector County ISD
Crystal Holland, Garland ISD
Tonja Holt-Ross, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD
Marla Hoppins, Ector County ISD
Zulma Huerta, Houston ISD
Beatriz Huerta, Garland ISD
Anila Ibrahim, Garland ISD
Ella James, Aldine ISD
Maria Jaramillo, Aldine ISD
Elton Johnson, Houston ISD
Tynisha Johnson, Houston ISD
Elizabeth Johnson, Aldine ISD
Wilhelmina Johnson, Aldine ISD
Rosemary Jonas, Garland ISD
Lekisha Jones, Garland ISD
Misty Kennedy, Garland ISD
Jessica Kidd, Pasadena ISD
Cesar Lagrimas, Klein ISD
Patricia Landaverde Lugo, Aldine ISD
Hilda Lara, Sheldon ISD
Tamela Lewis, Aldine ISD

NEW TASN CERTIFICATIONS

November 2023 – November 2024

Angelica Lopez Zamora, Aldine ISD
Dora Macias, Houston ISD
Estela Macias, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD
Nelda Martinez, Pasadena ISD
SanJuana Martinez, Houston ISD
Martha Martinez, Garland ISD
Araceli Martinez, Garland ISD
Aime Martinez, Garland ISD
Julia Martinez, Garland ISD
Elizabeth Martinez, Aldine ISD
Lakiesha McCraney, Garland ISD
Shelly McCullough, Aldine ISD
Bill McFarland, Garland ISD
Marisela Mejia, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD
Rosa Mendoza, Aldine ISD
Madison Menzies, Garland ISD
Jeannette Miles, Garland ISD
Alma Miranda, Ector ISD
Marlen Miranda, Aldine ISD
Sonia Mohindru, Garland ISD
Yadira Moncada, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD
Katrina Moore, Aldine ISD
Martha Mora, Klein ISD
Ana Morales, Garland ISD
Jamie Moreland, Dripping Springs ISD
Candice Morrell, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD
Jolene Morrison, Garland ISD
Vanessa Munoz, Dimmitt ISD
Jessica Navarrete, Hardin-Jefferson ISD
Sandra Newton, Garland ISD
Betty Newton, Garland ISD
Hoa Nguyen, Klein ISD
Tuanh Nguyen, Klein ISD
Shelia Nicholas, Aldine ISD
Syreeta Noel Mitchell, Aldine ISD
Erica Nunn, Dripping Springs ISD
Cheri Nye, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD
Aster Okbamicael, Garland ISD
Elvira Olivares, Sheldon ISD
Mario Orona, Ector County ISD
Erika Ortiz Garcia, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD
Marla Pantoja, Garland ISD
Melissa Payne, Garland ISD
Mildret Perez, Sheldon ISD
Olga Perez, Aldine ISD
Paula Perkins, Ector County ISD
Savanna Pitts, Aldine ISD
Deidra Ponse, Garland ISD
Amy Pratt, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD
Lisa Presley, Danbury ISD
Renee Priest, Garland ISD
Brenda Ramirez, Houston ISD
Shobhanaben Rana, Garland ISD

Maria Rangel, Houston ISD
Mikyla Rasberry, Ector County ISD
Victoria Resendiz, Garland ISD
Ivonne Reyes, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD
Maria Robinson, Aldine ISD
Eloisa Rodriguez, Aldine ISD
Matilde Rodriguez, Garland ISD
Tamara Rogers, Garland ISD
Maria Rubalcava, Garland ISD
Paula Ruiz, Garland ISD
Adriana Salazar, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD
Lourdes Salazar, Aldine ISD
Maria Salgado, Garland ISD
Cecilia Salvador, Houston ISD
Sonia Sample, Houston ISD
Sopheap Samreth, Klein ISD
Jose Sanchez, Sheldon ISD
Maribel Sanchez, Garland ISD
Guadalupe Sanchez, Aldine ISD
Shwanda Simpson, Aldine ISD
Rhonda Slusser, Dripping Springs ISD
Kimberly Stewart, Garland ISD
Karla Tapia, Sheldon ISD
Maria Torres, Aldine ISD
Erica Torres, Aldine ISD
Annette Tovar, Galena Park ISD
Kristina Tran, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD
Horiana Trevino, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD
Angela Trevino, Houston ISD
Albertina Umobit, Garland ISD
Lori Vahle, Garland ISD
Miriam Vallecillo, Ector County ISD
Virgettia Vaughn, Garland ISD
Claudia Vazquez Bautista, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD
Eva Vega, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD
Marina Velasquez, Garland ISD
Adriana Viramontez, Aldine ISD
Essie Williams, Sheldon ISD
Pamela Williams, Aldine ISD
Nicole Winsey, Aldine ISD
Maricela Zapata De Villarreal, Garland ISD
LaSandra Zaragoza, Houston ISD

LEVEL TWO

Luz Arechar, Dallas ISD
Elda Balderas, Aldine ISD
Esthefania Banuelos, Houston ISD
Maria Bautista, Aldine ISD
Wendy Bell, Garland ISD
Alveza Benson, Tomball ISD
Elvia Bocanegra, Garland ISD
Mary Bowie, Aldine ISD

NEW TASN CERTIFICATIONS

November 2023 – November 2024

Maria Canales, Houston ISD
Martha Castillo, Houston ISD
Michelle Chapa, Aldine ISD
Wilmelia Cintron, Garland ISD
JoAnn Cobos, Ector County ISD
Chrisandra Conners, Aldine ISD
Marisela Cordova, Garland ISD
Francis Dagahoy, Garland ISD
Brenda Deremee, Garland ISD
Nikki Dorsey, Aldine ISD
Laura Douglas, Garland ISD
Syeda Faisal, Klein ISD
Juan Fanchi, Garland ISD
Ora Gaines, Houston ISD
Robelin Gist, Garland ISD
Ornella Gomez-Millan, Klein ISD
Gloria Gonzalez, Houston ISD
Miriam Gonzalez , Galena Park ISD
Maria Gonzalez de Soto, Galena Park ISD
Maria Hernandez, Houston ISD
Carolyn Johnson, Garland ISD
Latasha Jones, Garland ISD
Tomica Kirtley, Channelview ISD
John Kren, Ector County ISD
Maria Lopez Tapia, Houston ISD
Fabiola Martinez, Galena Park ISD
Sheri McGuire, Aldine ISD
Jacqueline McMillan, Aldine ISD
Kijuana Miller, Houston ISD
Cherina Minor-Taylor, Houston ISD
Catalina Moreno, Houston ISD
Kyron Morrison, Garland ISD
Renaë Murphy, Aldine ISD
Yenisleidis Perez Pena , Houston ISD
Celia Pizano, Houston ISD
domingo Ramos, Ector County ISD
Silvia Rivera, Houston ISD
Zulmarie Rivera, Klein ISD
Katrina Rodriguez, Aldine ISD
Beatrice Rodriguez, Garland ISD
Elizabeth Rojas, Houston ISD
Lizbeth Roman, Houston ISD
Ana Ruiz, Garland ISD
Griselda Sanchez, Houston ISD
Raquel Sanchez, Houston ISD
Stephanie Santos, Aldine ISD
Guadalupe Serrano, Channelview ISD
Tristen Shannon, Garland ISD
Anilu Sidaa, Houston ISD
Johnnettia Smith, Klein ISD
Gary Snider, Ector County ISD
Ana Tafolla, Dallas ISD
Claribel Torres, Houston ISD

Cindy Tran, Klein ISD
Carmen Veliz Godoy De Jasso, Houston ISD
Rosemary Wallace, Houston ISD
Ward Webb, Ector County ISD
Keshawna Winder, Houston ISD

LEVEL THREE

Yanet Acosta Tellez, Houston ISD
Uresulla Anderson, Houston ISD
Juana Avalos, Houston ISD
Kay Bell, Garland ISD
Francisca Castaneda, Garland ISD
Maria Cerda, Cleveland ISD ISD
Mary Davenport, Houston ISD
Ronda Flakes, Houston ISD
Juana Flores, Houston ISD
Sandra Fordjour, Houston ISD
Juana Garcia, Houston ISD
Alma Garcia, Houston ISD
Sofia Garza, Houston ISD
Teresa Gonzalez, Houston ISD
Tabitha Grimes, Houston ISD
Fedalma Guice, Houston ISD
Veronica Guzman, Houston ISD
Jacquelyn Harris, Klein ISD
Evelin Hernandez, Aldine ISD
Jacqueline Johnson, Houston ISD
Wai Lau, Houston ISD
Marlene Martinez, Houston ISD
Oralia Pena, Houston ISD
Susana Perez, Houston ISD
Suzette Platt, Houston ISD
Anna Puente, Galena Park ISD
Andrea Quintanilla, Houston ISD
Maria Reyes, Houston ISD
LaTasha Rolling, Houston ISD
Jessenia Romano, Houston ISD
Dilcia Sandoval, Houston ISD
Melissa SanMiguel, Houston ISD
Leland Simmons, Aldine ISD
Josephine Victorian, Houston ISD
Cynthia Vielma, Garland ISD

LEVEL FOUR

Mary Abudayah, Spring Branch ISD
Anna Acuna, Houston ISD
Natasha Adams, Houston ISD
Paula Brady, Garland ISD
DuJuana Brown, Houston ISD
Roberto Byles, Houston ISD
Eloisa Carrillo, Sweeny ISD

NEW TASN CERTIFICATIONS

November 2023 – November 2024

Manuela Castillo, Houston ISD
Jay Collins, Brazosport ISD
Sonya Cornett, Houston ISD
Rafael Dan Garcia, Cypress - Fairbanks ISD
Tysha Davis, Houston ISD
Karen Del Rio, Houston ISD
Maribel Deleon, Houston ISD
Ahna Delgado, Millsap ISD
Mireya Flores, Aldine ISD
Raquel Gonzalez, Pasadena ISD
Katherine Hernandez, Sweeny ISD
LaToya Johnson, Houston ISD
Allison Lipscomb, Houston ISD
Miriam Lumbreras, Cypress - Fairbanks ISD
Teresa Marines, Corpus Christi ISD
April Marks, Houston ISD
Nancy Melendez, Brazosport ISD
Johana Mirales Yee, Houston ISD
Virgilia Molina, Houston ISD
Marta Navarro, Houston ISD
Rachel Nichols, Brazosport ISD
Judi Nixon-Blair, Texarkana ISD
Jose Nunez, Houston ISD
Rosa Ochoa, Houston ISD
Sandra Ortiz, Houston ISD
America Otero, Houston ISD
Itzel Parra, Galena Park ISD
Mariela Paz Lopez, Houston ISD
Enriqueta Prado, Houston ISD
Angelica Ramirez, Houston ISD
Gabriela Ramirez, Houston ISD
Stephanie Ramos, Corpus Christi ISD
Maria Rios, Houston ISD
Veronica Rios, Houston ISD
Chelsea Rivera, Corpus Christi ISD
Maria Rodriguez, Houston ISD
Alicia Rojas, Houston ISD
Diana Santos, Galena Park ISD
Haydee Sosa Rodriguez, Houston ISD
Rosa Tenorio, Houston ISD
Graciela Valenzuela, Houston ISD
Patricia Vargas, Cypress - Fairbanks ISD
Bleida Vega, Cypress - Fairbanks ISD
Ashley Walling, Garland ISD
Leisa Ward, Houston ISD
Keon Wells, Franklin ISD
Yumika White, Galena Park ISD
Francisca Zayas, Houston ISD

LEVEL FIVE

Maria Aguirre, Houston ISD
Fatima Aitalhadj, Houston ISD
Shannon Almand, Quitman ISD
Eric Batarse, La Villa ISD
Tia Bookman, Houston ISD
Courtney Boullion, Hardin-Jefferson ISD
Mary Boyd, Corpus Christi ISD
Gladys Camac, Houston ISD
Christopher Campbell, Seminole ISD
Molly Castillo, Ector County ISD
Fatima Cisneros, Houston ISD
Maryann Davillier, Garland ISD
Octavia Davis, Houston ISD
Damian Diaz, Houston ISD
Cynthia Espinoza, Hardin-Jefferson ISD
Lorena Fuentes, Klein ISD
Fernando Garnica, Houston ISD
Andres Garnica, Houston ISD
Cinthia Garza, Houston ISD
Leticia Guerrero, Houston ISD
Pedrina Hood, North East ISD
Amber Jay, Houston ISD
Jessica Johnston, Corpus Christi ISD
Emma Lopez, Houston ISD
Rocio Madrigal, Rio Hondo ISD
Maria Martinez, Houston ISD
Lisa Mays, McGregor ISD
Felecia Mays-Corbin, Houston ISD
Lauren Munguia, Corpus Christi ISD
Donald Nguyen, Klein ISD
Nathan Raska, Houston ISD
Sally Rojas, North East ISD
Elizabeth Salazar, Houston ISD
Elizabeth Sanches, Houston ISD
Joe Sanchez, North East ISD
Tamonica Smith, Aldine ISD
Cynthia Strunk, Garland ISD
Danielle Tank, Katy ISD
Hiep Tran, Klein ISD
Stephanie Trevino, Sweeny ISD
Kaley Van Ness, Corpus Christi ISD
Barbara Vasser-Baldwin, Sheldon ISD
Alicia Villalobos, Houston ISD
Ashley Walker, Houston ISD
Tameco Williams, Spring Branch ISD



HOW TO BE AN EFFECTIVE SCHOOL NUTRITION ADVOCATE

As you likely know, the Texas Legislature meets every other year. The 89th Legislature's regular session runs from January 14 to June 2, 2025, so by the time you read this article, the session will be underway.

You are an advocate for child nutrition every single day through your commitment to nourishing the bodies and minds of our state's children. And as an expert in your field who is impacted by policy changes, it's also important to advocate for child nutrition with your elected officials.

NOT SURE WHERE TO START?

Here are some tips for you and your chapters. The links are specific to the Texas state legislature, but these tips also apply to communicating with national representatives and senators.

1

MAKE SURE YOU KNOW WHO YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS ARE

You can look up your state and national representatives and senators (and those representing your school district, if you don't live near where you work) by clicking [HERE](#) and entering your address.

2

DON'T BE AFRAID TO REACH OUT

WRITE LETTERS/EMAILS: It's a tried and true method. Identify yourself as a constituent and let them know why you're writing up front. Keep it brief: Letters should never be longer than one page, and should be limited to one issue. Legislative aides read many letters on many issues in a day, so your letter should be as concise as possible. Be polite, but firm in your opinion – your legislators work for you! Adding a personal story, or reminding legislators of a time you may have met or supported them, may increase its effectiveness.

CALL: If the idea of calling your legislator on the phone makes you a little nervous, just write a short script for yourself before calling. Staffers are generally very friendly and happy to convey your message to their bosses. Again, keep it brief and personalize it for maximum impact.

MEET WITH THEM: Set up a brief meeting (generally about 5 minutes) with your legislator when he or she is in the home district office, or when you are available to go the Capitol. Be respectful of time, make just a few important points, and leave their office with a one-page fact sheet with your contact info on it.

WATCH COMMITTEE MEETINGS & SESSIONS: All committee meetings and sessions are available to the public to live stream. The Texas House of Representatives live stream can be found [HERE](#), and Texas Senate proceedings can be found [HERE](#).

GIVE PUBLIC TESTIMONY: Sometimes it's most effective to sign up to speak at a hearing or session, if you have concerns about a specific proposed policy change. At the end of your short statement, make sure to explain what action you'd like to see taken. And feel free to leave a longer, more detailed version of your testimony with legislators when you're done speaking.

SOCIAL MEDIA: Following your legislators on social media is a great way to learn their priorities and engage with them on issues. Tag legislators in posts and tweets to get their attention on specific actions you'd like them to take or questions you have.

3

THERE IS POWER IN NUMBERS

Make sure to keep up with legislative updates and attend any legislative action days held by TASN and [SNA](#). These organized efforts are informative and a great way to show our legislators the importance of the issues that we care about. Plus, it's more fun to advocate with friends!

There are two types of blueberries
to select from USDA Foods.

PICK WILD!

WILD BLUEBERRIES Give Schools More!

- More flavor that students love
- More value – 25% more servings per pound than ordinary blueberries *
- More nutrition than ordinary blueberries
- Less sugar than ordinary blueberries

Serve:

Sheet Tray
Pancakes



Smoothie
Bowl



Overnight
Oats



* Source: 2024 USDA Food Buying Guide Additional Yield Information for School Meals.

**Order the USDA Foods Wild Blueberry
that gives you MORE!**

USDA Foods Product Numbers:

(8) 3 lbs. bags–Item #100242 | 30 lbs.–Item #100243

Recipes, Resources, and More at
WildBlueberries.com/schools

Wild
Blueberries®

RESERVE YOUR BOOTH TODAY

TASN 2025
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE



JUNE 22-25
CORPUS
CHRISTI

156 BOOTHS
ALREADY SOLD!

BOOTH RATES:

10 X 10 BOOTH	MEMBER RATE	NON-MEMBER RATE
In-Line Booth	\$1,700.00	\$2,150.00
Premium Corner Booth	\$1,800.00	\$2,250.00

BOOTH INCLUDES:

- Post-conference attendee contact file
- Conference app listing and product description
- Company ID sign
- Two chairs
- Six-foot skirted table
- Eight-foot back drape
- Three-foot side drape
- Wastebasket

[LEARN MORE AND RESERVE](#)

TEXAS SCHOOL NUTRITION WELCOMES NEW YEAR WITH RENEWED FOCUS ON EFFICIENCIES AND SUPPORT

By Lena Wilson

Assistant Commissioner for Food and Nutrition

Texas Department of Agriculture



WELCOME TO 2025, a new year bringing transformation to the highest levels of the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. A new President, a new Secretary of Agriculture, and a new balance of power in Congress will guide our programs

after the inauguration on January 20, 2025. Even as new priorities come into focus, our goals remain unchanged – serving healthy meals to children and adhering to regulations.

UNIFORM GUIDANCE

Last year, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget updated Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations, or 2 CFR 200. These extensive updates went into effect on October 1, 2024, and impact all organizations receiving federal money. Also known as Uniform Guidance, 2 CFR 200 affects a few key areas related to procurement in the National School Lunch Program. I am happy to say this updated regulation should lessen the workload for capital

procurement for many contracting entities (CEs) in Texas.

Starting with Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, 2 CFR 200 makes it easier to buy things like an electric range, reach-in freezer, or any tangible property having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit cost less than \$10,000. Only equipment purchases of \$10,000 or more require a capital expenditure request. The \$5,000 threshold still applies to purchases in FY 24.

CEs with larger budgets will appreciate an increase in the single audit threshold provided in 2 CFR 200. Only operators that expend more than \$1 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 will need to conduct a single audit. Note that any operator spending more than \$750,000 in FY 2024 will need a single audit.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

As you navigate changes like these, I encourage you to consult with your [Education Service Center \(ESC\) representative](#) if you have any questions. More than ever our ESC partners have the expertise and motivation to assist you as you manage contracts, procure goods and services, compete

continued

2025

“Welcome to 2025, a new year bringing transformation to the highest levels of the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs.”

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applications, and more. TDA staff have worked to make ESCs more visible and accountable.

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) now requires ESC representatives to visit all CEs twice a year, with more emphasis on those with upcoming reviews. We have found that in-person meetings provide better customer service than emails. Now, the ESCs should focus on providing direct technical assistance that reflects the region's needs and improved compliance. Please provide TDA with feedback to help us better understand the effectiveness of our changes to the ESC relationship.

Providing your feedback and collaborating with TDA will continue to be priorities in 2025. Always attend TDA's [school calls](#) on the last Wednesday of the month and your region's summer workshop. Our monthly [newsletter](#) also keeps you up to speed with information about policies, grants, activities, and more. These communications will take on added importance this year as we look for new ways to enhance collaboration and education in 2025.

After an exhaustive exploration of dates and venues, we may have to cancel MegaCon for this year. The alternative will be a possible

award ceremony to recognize the great efforts of our contracting entities and have Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller attend to offer his support. Also under consideration are webinars for high-risk topics and a joint webinar with TDA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In 2025, TDA, the ESCs, and all 8,000-plus Texas schools in the [National School Lunch Program](#) will work together to maintain the momentum built in recent years. Your programs bring in more than \$2.6 billion in annual reimbursements to serve roughly 835 million school meals in Texas. That is a significant impact for the Lone Star State, and you are the ones driving this powerhouse. I hope you share my excitement for the opportunities to leverage our strength in the new year. Please know that you are valued, and I look forward to seeing your accomplishments as we navigate the changes inherent in a new administration taking control in Washington, D.C.



RESOURCES

[ESC Technical Assistance and Support](#)

[TDA School Call Webinar Schedule](#) (scroll down to Webinars)

[TDA Monthly Newsletter](#)

[National School Lunch Program](#)



See You in Corpus!

