



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

March 7, 2016

Dear Library Leaders:

Last summer, several Texas libraries added child nutrition to the long list of services they provide to connect their communities with resources to learn and thrive. These libraries partnered with local schools and nonprofit organizations to serve as sites where children could enjoy healthy meals through the federally funded Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

I hope you will consider joining the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) in our efforts to provide meals to Texas children in need this summer at your library. No child should go hungry just because school is out for the summer. Together, we can work to ensure this does not happen.

One of the greatest rewards of serving as your agriculture commissioner is being part of collaborative efforts to promote good nutrition. TDA and our partners continue to explore new ways to connect children with meals through SFSP. This requires dedication and commitment at the local level to make good nutrition available to children in need at places where they gather during the summer months, like local libraries. Opening a local library for meals and activities is a great way to expand the reach of SFSP, and I look forward to working with you towards continued success in the summer of 2016.

If your programs cannot facilitate serving summer meals through an SFSP partnership, please leverage your community connections to ensure people are aware of how to locate nearby meal sites. I encourage all of you to tell families in your area about the three easy ways to find a site in Texas: Call 211, text FOODTX to 877-877 or visit SummerFood.org.

Thank you again for all you do to strengthen your community's access to vital information and resources. Local libraries are in a unique position to serve as a platform for learning and teaching young Texans how to build a healthier future. Please continue to build on your extraordinary capacity for education, collaboration and innovation.

Your servant,

Sid Miller

SM/WB/av