



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

Expanding the 3E's Grant (X3E)



TDA Grant Opportunity to Expand Farm Fresh Fridays in Schools! Are you looking for ways to support farm to school activities at your schools? The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is accepting applications for the Expanding 3E's Nutrition Education Grant (X3E). The program encourages children's health and well-being through the 3E's of Healthy Living - Education, Exercise and Eating Right. Grant recipients receive funds to help connect students to nutrition and agriculture through education, taste tests, schools gardens, field trips, local food sourcing for school menus, and more!



Award Amount

Schools may seek up to \$10,000 per campus, or \$50,000 per school district (whichever is less) for expenses related to the implementation or expansion of Farm Fresh activities.



Eligibility

Applications will be accepted from any **public school district or campus** in Texas, in good standing with the Texas Comptroller's Office and the Texas Department of Agriculture.



Timeline

Application Open: Oct. 22, 2018
 Application Due: Dec. 6, 2018
 Notice of Award: Feb. 2019
 Grant Project Period: May 1, 2019-
 Aug. 31, 2020



2017 X3E Grantee Projects

Northside ISD Expands Gardens with X3E

Grant funds were used to support the establishment of eight garden bed systems throughout the district. The goal of the garden project was to give students access to garden-based learning and to provide educators with training using the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's Youth Garden Education Training program.

Bethke Elementary in Katy ISD Promotes Good Health through Gardening using X3E

Grant funds were used to establish a learning garden for students at Bethke Elementary. The garden was designed to give all grade levels ownership over the items they chose, all the way from planting through harvesting. The learning opportunities enriched science, math, social studies and language arts classes. A garden committee was effectively established. It provided ongoing input from different groups within the school, including students, teachers and parents.



Learn More

Find additional X3E information on the TDA website, www.texasagriculture.gov under the Grants & Services Tab.

Find information about the Texas Farm Fresh Initiative at www.squaremeals.org/TexasFarmFresh



Grant Writing Tips

- **Keep the audience in mind.** Reviewers will only use the information contained in the application to assess the project. Therefore, the applicant should ensure responses to the program requirements and expectations are complete and clearly written.
- **Be clear, concise, and consistent.** Make each point understandable. Provide accurate and honest information, including candid accounts of identified needs and realistic plans to address them. Make sure the information provided in each table is consistent with the proposal narrative.
- **Identify community partnerships.** Examples of community partners often interested in program collaboration include member of the Texas Master Gardener Program, parents, garden supply stores, extension agents, local businesses, nonprofits, and elected officials.
- **Enlist help.** Ask someone not involved in the preparation of the application to review it against the RFA to ensure all criteria has been responded to sufficiently.

USDA Tips for Preparing Grant Proposals, <https://www.fns.usda.gov/fm/tips-preparing-grant-proposals>

Examples of Farm Fresh Activities

- School garden development or expansion
- Experiential learning opportunities
- Taste testing activities focused on seasonal products
- Cooking demonstrations
- Field trips to farms and farmers markets
- Compost/food waste diversion



Who benefits from the Farm Fresh Initiative?

Kids Win

- Strong, positive connections to local, healthy food
- Self-efficacy to make healthy choices

Schools Win

- Boost nutrition and meal appeal
- Engage parents and community members

Farmers Win

- Reliable marketplace
- Stronger connection to the next generation



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