

Kirsten Baesler
State Superintendent
Donna Fishbeck
Chief of Staff
Laurie Matzke
Assistant Superintendent



**NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

600 E Boulevard Ave., Dept. 201
Bismarck, ND 58505-0440
Phone (701) 328-2260
Fax (701) 328-2461
www.nd.gov/dpi

Paid Lunch Equity: School Year 2022-2023 Lunch Pricing Calculations and PLE Tool

Regulations at 7 CFR 210.14(e) require schools participating in the National School Lunch Program to ensure sufficient funds are provided to the school food service account for meals served to students not eligible for free or reduced-price meals. There are two ways to meet this requirement: either through the **prices charged** for “paid” meals or through other non-Federal sources such as the **general fund**.

Schools that choose to contribute non-Federal sources to the nonprofit school food service account in lieu of raising paid lunch prices must calculate the appropriate amount to contribute. To determine the amount of required revenue in lieu of a paid lunch price increase, the school determines the total number of paid reimbursable lunches claimed for the previous school year and multiplies that by the difference between the SY 2019-20 weighted average paid lunch price requirement and the actual SY 2019-20 weighted average paid lunch price. Usually ten cents per lunch.

There is an option to ask for a PLE exemption if you had a positive food service balance on December 31, 2021 and do not want to increase prices. Write to degeland@nd.gov

Even if exemptions are allowed, it might not be wise with the high price increases in food. We cannot make you increase prices more than 10 cents per year; however, you can increase prices as much as you want.

SY 2022-23 Paid Lunch Equity Calculations

For SY 2022-23, schools which, on a weighted average, charged less than **\$3.31** for paid lunches in SY 2021-22 are required to adjust their weighted average lunch price or add non-Federal funds to the school food service account. The amount per meal increase will be calculated using 2 percent rate increase plus the Consumer Price Index (4.04 percent), totaling **6.04** percent.

The easiest way to track pricing requirements is to use the PLE tool. The tool will keep track of excess price increases carried forward and of general fund contributions. If you need help with the PLE tool or want an exemption, please call or write Deb Egeland at degeland@nd.gov or 701-391-2884.