



Child Nutrition Department

Meal Price Recommendations
for School Year 2025–2026

Grace George, Director of Child Nutrition

Meal Price Considerations

- Increased cost of purchased food and supplies for 2025–26 school year
- Increased cost of labor for 2025–26 school year
- Ending balance on Child Nutrition (CN) fund 8000 as of June 30, 2024
- Recommendation of increase based on the Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) Tool

PLE Tool Calculations

Pricing requirements are based on 2% increase plus the Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 4.03%

School Year	Weighted Average Previous Year	Weighted Average Requirement	Action Taken or Recommendation	Current Meal Cost	New Meal Cost
23-24	\$3.12	\$3.41	\$0.25 approved increase	\$2.50 K-5 \$2.75 6-12	\$2.75 K-5 \$3.00 6-12
24-25	\$3.41	\$3.76	none	\$2.75 K-5 \$3.00 6-12	No Change
25-26	\$3.76	\$3.99	\$0.25	\$2.75 K-5 \$3.00 6-12	\$3.00 K-5 \$3.25 6-12

River Valley District Comparisons

School District	Recommended Increase	New Meal Price
Alma	\$0.10	\$2.85 – \$3.05
Fort Smith	\$0.25	\$3.00 – \$3.25
Greenwood	\$0.25	\$2.25 – \$2.75
Van Buren	\$0.15	\$3.00

Paid Meal Price Recommendations

Meal Type	Current	Proposed	Increase
Lunch – Elementary	\$2.75	\$3.00	\$0.25
Lunch – Secondary	\$3.00	\$3.25	\$0.25
Breakfast	\$1.50	\$2.00	\$0.50