



# Food and Nutrition Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## Guidance for the Contiguous States PLE Tool for SY 2026-2027

Please review before moving to the Instructions Tab as the following information will help ensure SFAs are compliant with establishing prices for paid lunches per 7 CFR 210.14(e). For additional guidance, please refer to the following memos:

[SP 39-2011](#) Revised Child Nutrition Reauthorization 2010: Guidance on Paid Lunch Equity and Revenue from Nonprogram Foods

[SP 06-2026](#) Paid Lunch Equity: Guidance for School Year 2026-2027

### **2026 Appropriations Act**

SFAs with a positive or zero balance in their nonprofit school food service account as of June 30, 2025, are exempt from the PLE requirement for school year 2026-2027.

### **SY 2026-27 Paid Lunch Equity Calculations**

SFAs who on a weighted average charged less than the target weighted average price of **\$4.16** for paid lunches in SY 2025-26 are required to make an adjustment to their weighted average paid lunch price for SY 2026-27. This adjustment will be made by adding a 2% rate increase plus the most recent Consumer Price Index (3.85%) to the weighted average paid lunch price from SY 2025-26.

To calculate the Weighted Average Price Requirement for SY 2026-27, SFAs will need the Unrounded Weighted Average Price Requirement from SY 2025-2026.

*Example:* The PLE Tool from SY 2025-26 calculated that the unrounded weighted average price requirement was \$2.98. Although \$2.95 (which is the requirement rounded down to the nearest 5 cents) is what the SFA used to make their calculations on how they would meet the requirement for SY 2025-26, the \$2.98 price is what will be used to determine the Weighted

Once the weighted average price requirement for SY 2026-27 has been calculated, SFAs will need to decide how they want to meet it. SFAs have 3 methods to choose from:

Method 1. Raise the Weighted Average Price of Paid Lunches.

Method 2. Contribute Revenue from non-Federal Sources to the Nonprofit School Food Service Account.

Method 3. Split the Requirement by Raising the Weighted Average Price of Paid Lunches AND Contributing Revenue from non-Federal Sources to the Nonprofit School Food Service Account (Combining Methods 1 and 2).

Details on how to make calculations based on the method chosen can be found in the Instructions Tab.

### **Shortfalls/Credits**

While the maximum required price increase shall not exceed 10 cents, SFAs may increase their paid lunch price by more than 10 cents if they choose to.

- If the SFA decides to raise its weighted average price up to the 10 cents mark, any remaining shortfall will be added to next year's calculations.
- If the SFA decides to raise its weighted average price past the 10 cents mark, any additional funds will be carried over as a credit and subtracted in next year's calculations.

SFAs should keep sufficient records to document any shortfall or credit that needs to be carried into the calculations. The PLE Report generated each school year is a great reference to have as it captures the shortfall and credit that should be carried forward for the following year.

Details on how to account for any shortfall or credit can be found in the Instructions Tab.

## **Revenue from Non-Federal Sources**

When SFAs choose either Methods 2 or 3 to meet the weighted average price requirement, the PLE tool will calculate the amount of revenue from non-Federal sources that must be added to the nonprofit food service account. This amount is the product of the annual number of paid lunches from the most recent school year with finalized data multiplied by the difference between the rounded down weighted average price requirement and the SFAs current weighted average paid lunch price.

For this PLE tool, SFAs will use the annual number of paid lunches from SY 2024-2025 to make this calculation given that the finalized number for SY 2025-26 will be unknown when SFAs are completing the tool.

## **Types of Non-Federal Revenue Sources**

FNS has defined allowable non-Federal revenue sources as any contribution that is for the direct support of paid lunches that is not prohibited under 7 CFR 210.14(e)(5)(ii). SFAs may count the following contributions as non-Federal revenue sources:

- Per lunch reimbursements for paid lunches provided by State or local governments;
- Funds provided by organizations, such as school-related or community groups, to support paid lunches;
- Any portion of State revenue matching funds that exceeds the minimum requirement, as provided in 7 CFR 210.17, and is provided for paid lunches; and
- A proportion attributable to paid lunches from direct payments made from school district funds to support the lunch service.

## **Using the PLE Tool**

Detailed instructions on how to use the PLE Tool can be found in the Instructions Tab. It is highly recommended that SFAs read the instructions in their entirety before beginning their calculations. SFAs may find it helpful to print the instructions tab as well as this guidance to reference when completing the tool.

The PLE tool assists SFAs by calculating the:

- Weighted Average Price Requirement for SY 2026-27;
- Required Weighted Average Price Increase for SY 2026-27; and
- Required Revenue from non-Federal Sources for SY 2026-27.

SFAs have the choice on which method they would like to use to meet the weighted average price requirement for the school year. Regardless of which method is chosen, the tool will take into account any shortfall or credit being carried over from SY 2025-26 into the calculations for SY 2026-27. The tool will also determine whether any shortfall or credit will need to be carried over from SY 2026-27 into the calculations for SY 2027-28.

## **Information Needed to Complete the PLE Tool**

All SFAs will need the following to calculate the Weighted Average Price Requirement for SY 2026-27 and the required price increase:

- The Unrounded Price Requirement for SY 2025-26 OR the most recent school year for which data is available ( If this value is not known, then the SFA will need the weighted average price for paid lunches from SY 2010-11);
- All paid lunch prices for October 2025;
- The number of paid lunches served associated with each paid lunch price for October 2025; and
- The total dollar amount of shortfall or credit being carried over from SY 2025-26.

SFAs who opt for Methods 2 or 3 and will be contributing revenue from non-Federal sources to the nonprofit food service account will also need:

- The total number of paid lunches served in SY 2024-2025

## **PLE Report**

It is recommended that SFAs have the PLE Report from SY 2025-26 available for reference as much of the information needed to complete the PLE Tool for SY 2026-27 is summarized in that report.

SFAs will be able to generate a PLE Report for SY 2026-27 when calculations have been completed which will be helpful to reference when completing the tool that will be released for SY 2027-28.

**To Review the Instructions for the PLE Tool:**

[Instructions](#)

March 2026

---









# Food and Nutrition Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SFA NAME: [TYPE SFA NAME HERE]

## Paid Lunch Equity Tool for School Year 2026-2027 Instructions

The Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) Tool was created to help School Food Authorities (SFAs) calculate their new weighted average price requirement for the school year (SY) and determine what price increase is needed to meet the requirement. There are three methods for how SFAs can meet the requirement and the tool assists with making calculations based on the method chosen. This version of the PLE Tool only applies to SY 2026-2027 as a new version of the PLE Tool will be issued for SY 2027-28.

### The SY 2026-27 PLE Tool consists of 8 tabs:

Tab 1: [Guidance](#)

Tab 2: [Instructions](#)

Tab 3: [SY 26-27 Requirement Calculator](#)

Tab 4: [SY 26-27 Price Raise Calculator](#)

Tab 5: [SY 26-27 Non-Federal Calculator](#)

Tab 6: [SY 26-27 Split Calculator](#)

Tab 7: [SY 26-27 Report](#)

Tab 8: [SY 10-11 Price Calculator](#)

SFAs will follow the specific instructions pertaining to the method they choose to meet the requirement and only use the calculator (tab) that corresponds to that method.

### Reminders:

- The PLE Tool calculates the weighted average of all student paid lunch prices charged in the SFA.
- The maximum annual average price increase required will not exceed 10 cents. This may lead to some shortfall being carried over to the next school year as some SFAs will not be required to raise their weighted average price or contribute revenue from non-Federal sources to the nonprofit food service account due to this 10 cents cap.
- Depending on where the SFA is relative to the Weighted Average Price Requirement for SY 2026-27, a contribution less than 10 cents may be required.
- The SFA also has the option to do a price increase that exceeds the 10 cents cap with an additional contribution being carried over to the next school year as a credit.

**Cells shaded this color designate data entry cells. The SFA must enter the applicable data in these cells for the tool to make the appropriate calculations.**

### Calculate the Weighted Average Price Requirement for SY 2026-27

To begin, SFAs will calculate the Weighted Average Price Requirement for SY 2026-27. To make this calculation SFAs will need the Unrounded Weighted Average Price Requirement for SY 2025-26 or the most recent school year for which data is available. This value can be found in the PLE Report from SY 2025-26 under Section 1, Box A.

If this value is not known, the SFA will need their Weighted Average Price for SY 2010-11 as it can be used to find the Unrounded Weighted Average Price Requirement for SY 2025-26.

If their Weighted Average Price for SY 2010-11 is not known, the SFA will need the number of paid lunches that were sold in October 2010 along with their associated prices. This data would be used to calculate the Weighted Average Price for SY 2010-11.

**Step 1:** SFAs will navigate to the [SY 26-27 Requirement Calculator](#) (located in Tab 3). If the Unrounded Price Requirement for SY 2025-26 or the most recent school year for which data is available is known, enter this value into cell A7 (shaded in green). The tool will calculate the Weighted Average Price Requirement for SY 2026-27 in cell B7.

**(Optional Step):** If the Unrounded Price Requirement for SY 2025-26 or the most recent school year is not known, SFAs will use the [Annual Unrounded Requirement Finder](#) (located in Tab 3) to calculate this value.

Enter the Weighted Average Price for SY 2010-11 into cell A13 (shaded in green) to populate the Unrounded Price Requirements for all previous school years. Enter the Unrounded Price Requirement for SY 2025-26 (found in cell B32) into cell A7 (shaded in green). The tool will calculate the Weighted Average Price Requirement for SY 2026-27 in cell B7.

**(Optional Step):** If the Weighted Average Price for SY 2010-11 is not known, SFAs will use the [SY 10-11 Price Calculator](#) (located in Tab 8) to calculate this value.

Enter the number of paid lunches sold in October 2010 with their associated prices in columns B and C (shaded in green) to obtain the Weighted Average Price for SY 2010-11(found in cell E16).

Enter the Weighted Average Price for SY 2010-11 into cell A13 (shaded in green) of the [Annual Unrounded Requirement Finder](#) (located in Tab 3) to populate the Unrounded Price Requirements for all previous school years. Enter the Unrounded Price Requirement for SY 2025-26 (found in cell B32) into cell A7 (shaded in green). The tool will calculate the Weighted Average Price Requirement for SY 2026-27 in cell B7.

**At or Above Equity**

If the Unrounded Price Requirement for SY 2025-26 (or the most recent school year for which data is available) is equal to or greater than \$4.16, cell B7 will say "At or Above Equity" and instruct SFAs to proceed to the report tab.

SFAs will navigate to [SY 26-27 Report](#) (located in Tab 7).

**Step 1:** SFAs will use the drop down menu in cell A9 to select "At or Above Equity". SFAs will enter their Weighted Average Price into cell B10 (shaded in green) which is a field that will only become visible when the "At or Above Equity" option is selected.

SFAs will save this report to show they are in compliance with the requirement and to reference back to when they complete the PLE tool for SY 2027-28.

### Utilization of the SY 2026-27 PLE Exemption

If an SFA qualifies for the SY 2026-27 PLE exemption, they would not need to complete the PLE tool. However, it is recommended that documentation is maintained to show that an exemption was provided.

To obtain this documentation, SFAs will navigate to the [SY 26-27 Report](#) (located in Tab 7).

**Step 1:** SFAs will use the drop down menu in cell A9 to select "Utilization of the SY 2026-27 PLE Exemption". SFAs will then enter their Weighted Average Price into cell B10 (shaded in green). SFAs will certify that they had a positive or zero balance in the nonprofit school food service account as of June 30, 2025 by entering "Yes" into cell B11 (shaded in green). Both fields will only become visible when the "Utilization of the SY 2025-26 PLE Exemption" option is selected.

SFAs will save this report to show they are in compliance with the requirement and to reference back to when they complete the PLE tool for SY 2027-28.

### Choose a Method to Meet the Calculated Weighted Average Price Requirement for SY 2026-27

Now that the Weighted Average Price Requirement has been calculated, SFAs will decide on the method they would like to use to meet the requirement. There are three methods SFAs can choose from:

Method 1: Raise the Weighted Average Price of Paid Lunches.

Method 2: Contribute Revenue from non-Federal Sources to the Nonprofit Food Service Account.

Method 3: Split the Requirement by Raising the Weighted Average Price of Paid Lunches AND Contributing Revenue from non-Federal Sources to the Nonprofit Food Service Account (Combining Methods 1 and 2).

The method that SFAs choose will determine which calculator (tab) of the PLE Tool will be completed.

Example 1: If an SFA opts for Method 1, then they would only need to complete the SY 26-27 Price Raise Calculator (Tab 4).

Example 2: If an SFA opts for Method 2, then they would only need to complete the SY 26-27 Non-Federal Calculator (Tab 5).

Example 3: If an SFA opts for Method 3, then they would only need to complete the SY 26-27 Split Calculator (Tab 6).

See the **SY 2026-2027 PLE Tools Flowchart** for a visual summary of the calculators (tabs) SFAs will complete based on the method chosen.

To complete the PLE Tool, SFAs will follow the instructions for the method they have selected.

### Method 1: Raise the Weighted Average Price of Paid Lunches

This set of instructions are for SFAs who want to raise the weighted average price of paid lunches to meet the weighted average price requirement.

To begin SFAs will navigate to the [SY 26-27 Price Raise Calculator](#) (located in Tab 4).

For reference, the Weighted Average Price Requirement for SY 2026-27 will be located at the top of the calculator as well as the price requirement rounded down to the nearest 5 cents. With the exception of the required weighted average price increase with the ten cents cap, the overview of the calculations that the tool calculates is based on the assumption that SFAs will want to meet the requirement rounded down to the nearest 5 cents.

**Step 1:** Using the [SY 2025-26 Weighted Average Price Calculator](#) (located in Tab 4), SFAs will enter the number of paid lunches from October 2025 with their associated prices into columns B and C (shaded in green). Prices should be inclusive of all schools- elementary, middle, high, etc. The tool will calculate the Weighted Average Price for SY 2025-26 in cell E22. As a reminder, if the price is equal to or above the target price of \$4.16 then the SFA is compliant with the requirement. The tool will calculate the:

- Total Price Increase for SY 2026-27 (based on the requirement rounded down to the nearest 5 cents);
- Required Weighted Average Price for SY 2026-27 (Increase with the 10 cents cap);
- Remaining Shortfall to meet the Total Price Increase for SY 2026-27 (based on establishing the price with the 10 cents cap); and
- Credit From the Total Price Increase for SY 2026-27 (based on a greater price in SY 25-26 and/or credit from the previous year).

SFAs must determine whether any shortfall or credit needs to be carried forward from SY 2025-26 into SY 2026-27. This information can be found in the PLE Report from SY 2025-26 under Section 2.

- Any shortfall to be added into the calculations will be found in Block A: Remaining increase carried forward to SY 2026-27.
- Any credit to be subtracted from the calculations will be found in Block B: Remaining credit carried forward to SY 2026-27.

**Step 2:** SFAs will enter any shortfall or credit in cell A26 (shaded in green). Any shortfall will be entered as a negative value and any credit will be entered as a positive value.

Example 1: Block A states a shortfall of \$0.04 needs to be carried forward to SY 2026-27. The SFA would enter this shortfall as -\$0.04 into cell A26.

Example 2: Block B states a credit of \$0.50 needs to be carried forward to SY 2026-27. The SFA would enter this credit as \$0.50 into cell A26.

If no shortfall or credit needs to be carried forward to SY 2026-27, cell A26 will remain blank.

Once any shortfall or credit from SY 2025-26 has been accounted for, the tool will adjust the:

- Total Price Increase for SY 2026-27 (based on the requirement rounded down to the nearest 5 cents);
- Required Weighted Average Price for SY 2026-27 (Increase with the 10 cents cap);
- Remaining Shortfall to meet the Total Price Increase for SY 2026-27 (based on establishing the price with the 10 cents cap); and
- Credit From the Total Price Increase for SY 2026-27 (based on a greater price in SY 25-26 and/or credit from the previous year).

As a reminder, these values (except for the required weighted average price with the 10 cents cap) are based on the assumption that SFAs will want to meet the requirement rounded down to the nearest 5 cents. This information is shown for awareness purposes only as the price that gets finalized on the report is what determines the shortfall or credit that will be issued for next school year.

**(Optional Step):** SFAs can use the [Pricing Estimation Calculator](#) (located in Tab 4) to determine how they want to distribute the price increase within the SFA to reach the Required Weighted Average Price for SY 2026-27. SFAs have the flexibility to raise individual student prices using many different price combinations.

SFAs will enter the number of paid lunches from October 2025 with their associated prices into Columns B and C (shaded in green). SFAs will then change the student paid lunch prices until the value in cell E50 reaches the Required Weighted Average Price for SY 2026-27 with the 10 cents cap.

**Step 3:** SFAs will navigate to the [SY 26-27 PLE Report](#) (located in Tab 7).

Under Section 1, SFAs will see the weighted average paid price requirement to the nearest cent and rounded down to the nearest 5 cents for reference.

Using the drop down menu in cell A9, SFAs will select "Method 1: Raise the Weighted Average Price of Paid Lunches". SFAs will enter the Weighted Average Price they will establish for SY 2026-27 into Block C, cell B15 (shaded in green).

Once a price is entered, the report will generate any shortfall or credit that will be carried forward based on how that price compares to the required weighted average price increase with the 10 cents cap shown in cell A31 of the Price Raise Calculator.

SFAs will save this report to show that they are in compliance with the requirement and to reference back to when they complete the PLE tool for SY 2027-28.

## Method 2: Contribute Revenue from non-Federal Sources to the Nonprofit Food Service Account

This set of instructions are for SFAs who want to contribute revenue from non-Federal sources to the nonprofit food service account to meet the weighted average price requirement.

To begin SFAs will navigate to the [SY 26-27 Non-Federal Calculator](#) (located in Tab 5).

For reference, the Weighted Average Price Requirement for SY 2026-27 will be located at the top of the calculator as well as the price requirement rounded down to the nearest 5 cents. With the exceptions of the required weighted average price increase with the 10 cents cap and amount of revenue needed with the 10 cents cap, the overview of the calculations that the tool calculates is based on the assumption that SFAs will want to meet the requirement rounded down to the nearest 5 cents.

**Step 1:** If known, SFAs will enter the Weighted Average Price for SY 2025-26 into cell A10 (shaded in green). As a reminder, if the price is equal to or above the target price of \$4.16 then the SFA is compliant with the requirement. The tool will calculate the Total Price Increase for SY 2026-27 in cell B32.

If this price is not known, do not enter anything in cell A10 as it will link to the price SFAs manually calculate in the optional step below.

**(Optional Step):** Using the [SY 2025-26 Weighted Average Calculator](#) (located in Tab 5), SFAs will enter the number of paid lunches from October 2025 with their associated prices into Columns B and C (shaded in green). Prices should be inclusive of all schools- elementary, middle, high, etc. The tool will calculate the Weighted Average Price for SY 2025-26 in cell E27.

This price will automatically populate into cell A10 (shaded in green). If the link was accidentally erased, then SFAs would need to manually enter that value into cell A10. The tool will calculate the Total Price Increase for SY 2026-27 (based on the requirement rounded down to the nearest 5 cents) in cell B32.

**Step 2:** SFAs will enter the total number of student paid lunches served in SY 2024-25 into cell A32 (shaded in green). The tool will calculate the:

- Total Revenue from Non-Federal Sources for SY 2026-27 (Based on the requirement rounded down to the nearest 5 cents);
- Required Price Increase for SY 2026-27 (with the 10 cents cap);
- Required Amount of Revenue from non-Federal Sources for SY 2026-27 (with the 10 cents cap);
- Remaining Shortfall to Meet the Total Price Increase for SY 2026-27 (based on contributing revenue reflective of the 10 cents cap); and
- Credit from the Total Price Increase for SY 2026-27 (Based on credit from the previous year).

SFAs must determine whether any shortfall or credit needs to be carried forward from SY 2025-26 into SY 2026-27. This information can be found in the SY 2025-2026 Report under Section 2.

- Any shortfall to be added into the calculations will be found in Block D: Remaining Annual Non-Federal Source Contribution carried forward to SY 2026-27.
- Any credit to be subtracted from the calculations will be found in Block E: Remaining credit carried forward to SY 2026-27.

**Step 3:** SFAs will enter any shortfall or credit in cell A36 (shaded in green). Any shortfall will be entered as a negative value and any credit will be entered as a positive value.

Example 1: Block D states a shortfall of \$600.00 needs to be carried forward to SY 2026-27. The SFA would enter this shortfall as -\$600.00 in cell A36.

Example 2: Block E states a credit of \$500.00 needs to be carried forward to SY 2026-27. The SFA would enter this credit as \$500.00 in cell A36.

If no shortfall or credit needs to be carried forward to SY 2026-27, cell A36 will remain blank.

Once any shortfall or credit has been accounted for, the tool will adjust the:

- Amount of Revenue from Non-Federal Sources for SY 2026-27;
- Required Price Increase for SY 2026-27 (with the 10 cents cap);
- Required Amount of Revenue from non-Federal Sources for SY 2026-27 (with the 10 cents cap);
- Remaining Shortfall to Meet the Total Price Increase for SY 2026-27 (based on contributing revenue reflective of the 10 cents cap); and
- Credit from the Total Price Increase for SY 2026-27 (Based on credit from the previous year).

As a reminder, these values (except for the required price increase and required amount of revenue with the 10 cent cap) are based on the assumption that SFAs will want to meet the requirement rounded down to the nearest 5 cents. This information is shown for awareness purposes only as the amount of revenue that gets finalized on the report is what determines the shortfall or credit that will be issued for next school year.

**Step 4:** To create this summary, SFAs will navigate to the [SY 26-27 Report](#) (located in Tab 7).

Under Section 1, SFAs will see the weighted average paid price requirement to the nearest cent and rounded down to the nearest 5 cents for reference.

Using the drop down menu in cell A9, SFAs will select "Method 2: Contribute Revenue from non-Federal Sources to the Nonprofit Food Service Account". SFAs will enter the amount of revenue from non-Federal Sources they will contribute for SY 2026-27 into Block F, cell B19 (shaded in green).

SFA NAME: [TYPE SFA NAME HERE]

### SY 26-27 Weighted Average Price Requirement Calculator

#### Step 1

The weighted average price is based on adjusting the SY 2025-26 price requirement by the 2% rate increase plus the Consumer Price Index (3.85%).

Unrounded Price Requirement for SY 2025-26	Weighted Average Price Requirement for SY 2026-27
Found in Section 1, Block A of the PLE Report from SY 2025-26 or in cell B32 of the Annual Unrounded Requirement Finder	Requirement to the nearest cent
\$ 3.19	\$ 3.38

If the Unrounded Price Requirement for SY 2025-26 is not known, the Unrounded Price Requirement from the most recent school year can be used.

### Annual Unrounded Requirement Finder

Only used when the Unrounded Price Requirement for SY 2025-26 or the most recent school year is not known.

#### (Optional Step)

##### Weighted Average Price for SY 2010-11

Enter the weighted average price of all paid lunches charged in the SFA for SY 2010-11.

If the Weighted Average Price for SY 2010-2011 is not known, complete the SY 10-11 Price Calculator to obtain this value.

[SY 10-11 Price Calculator](#)

The Unrounded Price Requirement for SY 2025-2026 will be based on the price requirements for SY 2011-2012 to SY 2024-2025.

Previous School Years	Unrounded Price Requirement to the nearest cent
2011-2012	\$ -
2012-2013	\$ -
2013-2014	\$ -
2014-2015	\$ -
2015-2016	\$ -
2016-2017	\$ -
2017-2018	\$ -
2018-2019	\$ -
2019-2020	\$ -
2020-2021	\$ -
2021-2022	\$ -
2022-2023	\$ -
2023-2024	\$ -
2024-2025	\$ -
2025-2026	\$ -

Select the calculator based on the method chosen to meet the Weighted Average Price Requirement for SY 2026-27:

**Method 1:** [SY 26-27 Price Raise Calculator](#)

**Method 2:** [SY 26-27 Non-Federal Calculator](#)

**Method 3:** [SY 26-27 Split Calculator](#)

To review the instructions for the SY 26-27 Requirement Calculator:

[Instructions](#)

Attention: Users should only enter information in the cells highlighted in green. Modifications should not be made to the tool as changes can cause an incorrect new average price to be calculated which will impact future calculations.

March 2026

SFA NAME: [TYPE SFA NAME HERE]

The prices are based on adjusting SY 2025-26 price requirement by the 2% rate increase plus the Consumer Price Index (3.85%).

SY 2026-27 Weighted Average Price Requirement	
Requirement to the nearest cent	Requirement ROUNDED DOWN to the nearest 5 cents
\$ 3.38	\$ 3.35

**SY 2026-27 Price Raise Calculator**

**Step 1**

If the SY 2025-26 Weighted Average Price is equal to or above the target price of \$4.16 then the SFA is compliant for SY 2026-27.

**SY 2025-26 Weighted Average Price Calculator**

Enter the paid prices and number of paid lunches sold at each price for October 2025.

	Number of Paid Lunches	Paid Lunch Prices	Monthly Revenue	Weighted Average Price for SY 2025-26
1	11,775	\$ 2.95	\$ 34,736.25	
2	7,445	\$ 3.05	\$ 22,707.25	
3	12,926	\$ 3.25	\$ 42,009.50	
4			\$ -	
5			\$ -	
6			\$ -	
7			\$ -	
8			\$ -	
9			\$ -	
10			\$ -	
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,146</b>		<b>\$ 99,453.00</b>	<b>\$ 3.09</b>

**Step 2**

Shortfall or Credit
Enter any shortfall or credit carried forward from SY 2025-26

**Overview of the Calculations**

<b>Total Price Increase for SY 2026-27</b> (Based on the requirement rounded down to the nearest 5 cents)	
\$	<b>0.26</b>
<b>Required Weighted Average Price for SY 2026-27</b> (Increase with the 10 cents cap)	
\$	<b>3.19</b>
<b>Remaining Shortfall to Meet the Total Price Increase for SY 2026-27</b> (Based on establishing the price with the 10 cents cap)	
\$	<b>0.16</b>
<b>Credit From the Total Price Increase for SY 2026-27</b> (Based on a greater price in SY 25-26 and/or credit from the previous year)	
\$	<b>-</b>

**(Optional Step)**

**Pricing Estimation Calculator**

Below is a tool allowing users to manipulate prices to achieve the required weighted average price for SY 2026-27.

	Number of Paid Lunches	Paid Lunch Prices	Monthly Revenue	Weighted Average Price for SY 2026-27
1	11,775	\$ 3.05	\$ 35,913.75	
2	7,445	\$ 3.15	\$ 23,451.75	
3	12,926	\$ 3.35	\$ 43,302.10	
4			\$ -	
5			\$ -	
6			\$ -	
7			\$ -	
8			\$ -	
9			\$ -	
10			\$ -	
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,146</b>		<b>\$ 102,667.60</b>	<b>\$ 3.19</b>

**Step 3**

[SY 26-27 Report](#)

To review the instructions for the SY 26-27 Price Raise Calculator:

[Instructions](#)

Attention: Users should only enter information in the cells highlighted in green. Modifications should not be made to the tool as changes can cause an incorrect new average price to be calculated which will impact future calculations.

SFA NAME: [TYPE SFA NAME HERE]

The prices are based on adjusting SY 2025-26 price requirement by the 2% rate increase plus the Consumer Price Index (3.85%).

SY 2026-27 Weighted Average Price Requirement	
Requirement to the nearest cent	Requirement ROUNDED DOWN to the nearest 5 cents
\$ 3.38	\$ 3.35

**SY 2026-27 Non-Federal Calculator**

**Step 1**

Weighted Average Price for SY 25-26
Enter the current weighted average paid lunch price.

If the current weighted average paid price is not known, use the SY 2025-2026 Weighted Average Price Calculator below.

**(Optional Step)**

If the SY 2025-26 Weighted Average Price is equal to or above the target price of \$4.16 then the SFA is compliant for SY 2026-27.

**SY 2025-26 Weighted Average Price Calculator**

Enter the paid prices and number of paid lunches sold at each price for October 2025.

	Number of Paid Lunches	Paid Lunch Price	Monthly Revenue	Weighted Average Price for SY 2025-26
1			\$ -	
2			\$ -	
3			\$ -	
4			\$ -	
5			\$ -	
6			\$ -	
7			\$ -	
8			\$ -	
9			\$ -	
10			\$ -	
<b>Total</b>	-		\$ -	\$ -

**Step 2**

**Non-Federal Source Contribution Calculator for SY 2026-27**

Enter the total paid lunch count (for all prices).

Annual Number of Paid Lunches for SY 2024-25	Total Price Increase for SY 2026-27 (Based on the requirement rounded down to the nearest 5 cents)	Total Revenue from Non-Federal Sources for SY 2026-27
	\$ -	\$ -

**Step 3**

**Shortfall or Credit**

Enter any shortfall or credit being carried forward from SY 2025-26	Amount of Revenue from Non-Federal Sources for SY 2026-27 (adjusted with any shortfall or credit being carried over)
	\$ -

**Overview of Calculations**

<b>Required Price Increase for SY 2026-27 (with the 10 cents cap)</b>	\$ -
<b>Required Amount of Revenue from non-Federal Sources for SY 2026-27 (with the 10 cents cap)</b>	\$ -
<b>Remaining Shortfall to Meet the Total Price Increase for SY 2026-27 (Based on contributing revenue reflective of the 10 cents cap)</b>	\$ -
<b>Credit From the Total Price Increase for SY 2026-27 (Based on credit from the previous year)</b>	\$ -

**Step 4**

[SY 26-27 Report](#)

To review the instructions for the SY 26-27 Non-Federal Calculator:

[Instructions](#)

Attention: Users should only enter information in the cells highlighted in green. Modifications should not be made to the tool as changes can cause an incorrect new average price to be calculated which will impact future calculations.

**SFA NAME: [TYPE SFA NAME HERE]**

The prices are based on adjusting SY 2025-26 price requirement by the 2% rate increase plus the Consumer Price Index (3.85%).

SY 2026-27 Weighted Average Price Requirement	
Requirement to the nearest cent	Requirement ROUNDED DOWN to the nearest 5 cents
\$ 3.38	\$ 3.35

**SY 2026-27 Split Calculator**  
**(Raising the Weighted Average Price and Contributing Revenue from Non-Federal Sources)**

**Step 1**

If the SY 2025-26 Weighted Average Price is equal to or above the target price of \$4.16 then the SFA is compliant for SY 2026-27.

**SY 2025-26 Weighted Average Price Calculator**

Enter the paid prices and number of paid lunches sold at each price for October 2025.

	Number of Paid Lunches	Paid Lunch Price	Monthly Revenue	Weighted Average Price for SY 2025-26
1			\$ -	
2			\$ -	
3			\$ -	
4			\$ -	
5			\$ -	
6			\$ -	
7			\$ -	
8			\$ -	
9			\$ -	
10			\$ -	
<b>Total</b>	-		\$ -	\$ -

<b>Total Price Increase for SY 2026-27</b> (Based on the requirement rounded down to the nearest 5 cents)	\$ -
<b>Required Weighted Average Price for SY 2026-2027</b> (Increase with the 10 cents cap)	\$ -

**Step 2**

<b>Weighted Average Price for SY 2026-27</b>
Enter the weighted average price that will be used to split the requirement.

**(Optional Step)**

**Pricing Estimation Calculator**

Below is a tool allowing users to manipulate prices to achieve a new weighted average price to split the requirement.

	Number of Paid Lunches	Paid Lunch Price	Monthly Revenue	Weighted Average Price for SY 2026-27
1			\$ -	
2			\$ -	
3			\$ -	
4			\$ -	
5			\$ -	
6			\$ -	
7			\$ -	
8			\$ -	
9			\$ -	
10			\$ -	
<b>Total</b>	-		\$ -	\$ -

**Step 3**

**Non-Federal Source Contribution Calculator for SY 2026-27**

Enter the total paid lunch count (for all prices).

<b>Annual Number of Paid Lunches for SY 2024-25</b>	<b>Total Price Increase for SY 2026-27</b> (Based on the requirement rounded down to the nearest 5 cents)	<b>Total Revenue from Non-Federal Sources for SY 2026-27</b>
---	--	--

	\$	-	\$	-
--	----	---	----	---

**Step 4**

Shortfall or Credit	
Enter any shortfall or credit being carried forward from SY 2025-26	<b>Amount of Revenue from Non-Federal Sources for SY 2026-27 (adjusted with any shortfall or credit being carried over)</b>
\$ -	\$ -

**Overview of Calculations**

<b>Required Price Increase for SY 2026-27 (with the 10 cents cap)</b>	
\$	-
<b>Required Amount of Revenue from non-Federal Sources for SY 2027-27 (with the 10 cents cap)</b>	
\$	-
<b>Remaining Shortfall to Meet the Total Price Increase for SY 2026-27 (Based on contributing revenue reflective of the 10 cents cap)</b>	
\$	-
<b>Credit From the Total Price Increase for SY 2026-27 (Based on credit from the previous year)</b>	
\$	-

**Step 5**

[SY 26-27 Report](#)

To review the instructions for the SY 26-27 Split Calculator:

[Instructions](#)

Attention: Users should only enter information in the cells highlighted in green. Modifications should not be made to the tool as changes can cause an incorrect new average price to be calculated which will impact future calculations.

March 2026

SFA NAME: [TYPE SFA NAME HERE]

## Paid Lunch Equity Report for SY 2026-2027

This report provides a summary of the calculations made for SY 2026-27. It details the weighted average paid price requirement, the method SFAs chose to meet the requirement and any shortfall or credit that will need to be carried forward to the next school year. This report will be helpful to have when completing next year's PLE tool so it is recommended that SFAs print and keep this report in their records.

### Section 1: SY 2026-27 Weighted Average Paid Price Requirements

<b>A. Requirement to the nearest cent:</b> This unrounded price will be entered into the SY 2027-28 tool to determine the weighted average price requirements	<b>\$3.38</b>
<b>B. Requirement ROUNDED DOWN to the nearest 5 cents:</b>	<b>\$3.35</b>

### Section 2: Summary of Calculations

Select the method used to meet the requirement for SY 2026-27
Method 1: Raise the Weighted Average Price of Paid Lunches <span style="float: right;">▼</span>

### Average Weighted Price Adjustments

<b>A. Shortfall Carried Forward to SY 2027-28:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>B. Credit Carried Forward to SY 2027-28:</b>	<b>\$0.16</b>
<b>C. Weighted Average Price for SY 2026-27:</b>	<b>\$3.35</b>

### Non-Federal Source Contributions

<b>D. Shortfall Carried Forward to SY 2027-28:</b>	
<b>E. Credit Carried Forward to SY 2027-28:</b>	
<b>F. Amount of Revenue from non-Federal Sources for SY 2026-27:</b>	
<b>G. Non-Federal Revenue Sources:</b>	
<b>H. General Fund Transfer:</b>	

### Split Calculations

<b>I. Shortfall Carried Forward to SY 2027-28:</b>	
<b>J. Credit Carried Forward to SY 2027-28:</b>	
<b>K. Weighted Average Price for SY 2026-27:</b>	
<b>L. Amount of Revenue from non-Federal Sources for SY 2026-27:</b>	
<b>M. Non-Federal Revenue Sources:</b>	

<b>N. General Fund Transfer:</b>

March 2026

SFA NAME: [TYPE SFA NAME HERE]

(Optional Step)

**SY 2010-11 Weighted Average Price Calculator**

Enter the number of paid lunches sold in October 2010 with their associated prices.

	<b>Number of Paid Lunches</b>	<b>Paid Lunch Price</b>	<b>Monthly Revenue</b>	<b>Weighted Average Price for SY 2010-11</b>
1			\$ -	
2			\$ -	
3			\$ -	
4			\$ -	
5			\$ -	
6			\$ -	
7			\$ -	
8			\$ -	
9			\$ -	
10			\$ -	
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

[Annual Unrounded Requirement Finder](#)

To review instructions for the SY 10-11 Weighted Average Price Calculator:

[Instructions](#)

Attention: Users should only enter information in the cells highlighted in green. Modifications should not be made to the tool as changes can cause an incorrect new average price to be calculated which will impact future calculations.

March 2026