

Era Independent School District

Board of Trustees Agenda Item

Meeting Date: June 27, 2022

Type of Item: Information Presentation Consent Agenda Action

Supporting Documents: Yes No

Subject: Student Paid Meal Pricing for 2022-23 School Year

Background Information

USDA extended the PLE exemption based on a CE's financial position to SY 2022-2023 in policy memo SP 08-2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act 2022: Effect on Child Nutrition Programs (released April 4, 2022).

CEs with a zero or positive fund balance as of December 31, 2021 have two options:

(1) Complete and apply the SY 2022-2023 PLE calculation to the CE's meal pricing structure. If a CE chooses this option, the CE will adjust meal prices as appropriate to the PLE calculation. The CE must retain the completed PLE calculation tool and other documentation demonstrating how the CE determined the meal prices to be charged.

(2) Choose not to complete and not to apply the SY 2022-2023 PLE calculation. If the CE chooses this option, the CE may increase meal prices, but is not required to do so. The CE must retain financial documentation that demonstrates that the CE has reconciled all costs incurred and income received since the end of the most recent fiscal year and December 31, 2021 and determined that it has a zero or positive fund balance. If the CE chooses to increase meal prices, the CE needs to retain documentation demonstrating the amount of the price increase.

Current lunch meal pricing for paid students is \$3.10.

Fiscal Implication

Increased food costs are inevitable in the upcoming school year. Meal price increases could help offset those increases. However, families have not paid for school meals for the past year, and the impact could be substantial to them as well.

Administrative Recommendation

The recommendation is to not increase meal prices and return to the pricing structure used in the 2020-21 school year.

Breakfast: Reduced Meal Price \$0.30; Paid Meal Price \$1.85

Lunch: Reduced Meal Price \$0.40; Paid Meal Price \$3.10

Contact Person(s)

Shelly Laaser, MS RD