

Zionsville Community Schools

Board of School Trustees Meeting “Item for Consideration”

New Business Item 6a • Date: July 14, 2025

School Meal Prices for 2025-2026

Category:

<input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources, Personnel/Staffing	<input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Finance, Budgeting, Accounting	<input type="checkbox"/> Student Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Board Policy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Facilities, Transportation, Nutrition	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Relations	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Type of Board of Trustees Consideration Sought:

Action	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Report	<input type="checkbox"/>

Facts of this Matter:

ZCS participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) which is overseen by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Prior to the pandemic, USDA guidelines involved the adherence to “Paid Lunch Equity” (PLE) to ensure that meal costs would be covered by the total amount charged to students plus the appropriate federal reimbursement received.

For the past five school years, there has been a waiver allowing schools to bypass PLE requirements when determining meal prices. This year the waiver again is contingent upon a school food service account having a zero or positive balance as of June 30, 2024. As of that date, the ZCS School Lunch Fund did retain a positive fund balance, and as a result the Leadership Team recommends that meal prices be maintained at their current levels: \$1.40 for breakfast at all levels, \$2.65 for elementary lunch and \$2.85 for secondary lunch. This pricing has been in place since the 2019-2020 school year.

The Food Service Department would like to continue offering the Premium Meal option at Zionsville Community High School. Premium Meals, when provided, are available at \$3.35 per meal and at free and reduced pricing levels for students under those federal categories.

A la carte items will remain priced based on distributor cost, and families will again have the ability to apply for Meal Assistance should they wish to seek assistance with their meal costs.

Objective POSITIVES related to this item or approach:

This approach provides assistance to ZCS families and demonstrates continued awareness of potential needs.

Objective NEGATIVES related to this item or approach:

None at this time. Should the circumstances change with the balance of the School Lunch Fund, we would address that with the Board of School Trustees at that time. However, at present, the School Lunch fund has an operating balance sufficient to support maintaining the current meal prices without negatively affecting the ability to remain self-sustaining.

Opinion/Recommendation:

It is recommended that student school lunches be priced at \$2.65 for elementary students and \$2.85 for secondary students with a continuing option at ZCHS for a Premium Meal priced at \$3.35. Breakfast will remain at \$1.40 at all levels and adult meal prices, along with extra items not included in a reimbursable student meal, will continue to be priced on an a la carte basis.

Financial Implications, if any:

Financial implications are noted in the sections above. Beyond those, there are none.

Suggested Wording for a Motion, if any:

I move to approve the status quo of School Breakfast and Lunch prices for the 2025-2026 school year: \$1.40 for Breakfast, \$2.65 for elementary lunch, \$2.85 for secondary lunch, \$3.35 for ZCHS Premium Lunch, and adult and ala carte items priced as necessary.