

To: Board of Education
From: Janice A. Roome, Comptroller
CC: Dr. Jay Morrow, Scott Ringberg
Date: July 21, 2025
Re: Request to increase paid meal prices for 2025-26

Background Information

Our Food Service Department has been incrementally increasing our lunch prices in order to comply with the provisions of the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act. This Act requires that schools move toward charging student-paid lunch at a price that is on average equal to the difference between free lunch reimbursement and paid lunch reimbursement. We are required to charge within five cents of the computed average, but the Act is currently lenient toward schools that charge less than this amount as long as they are gradually increasing their prices over time until they meet this requirement.

Administrative Considerations

Districts participating in the CEP are not required to compute paid lunch prices each year; however, ISBE recommends that the calculation be made for recordkeeping purposes. Under this calculation, the currently approved \$3.35 paid lunch price is \$0.10 short of the USDA's weighted average price of \$3.45. Mr. Ringberg recommends the same \$.10 increase to the breakfast prices for 2025-2026.

The requirement for adult meal prices is that they be \$.50 above the average reimbursement rate being received by the District. The average reimbursements for breakfast and lunch respectively are \$2.55 and \$4.02. Mr. Ringberg recommends increasing adult lunch to \$4.55 with no increase in adult breakfast.

	Breakfast		Lunch	
	FY25	FY26	FY25	FY26
Student	\$1.90	\$2.00	\$3.35	\$3.45
Adult	\$3.05	\$3.05	\$4.50	\$4.55

Recommendation

We recommend the Board of Education approve the recommended increase in paid lunch prices for 2025-26 as presented.