

MEMO

DATE: July 1, 2024
TO: Doug Eccarius, Superintendent
FROM: Maureen A. Jones, Asst Superintendent for Finance & Operations
SUBJECT: **Food Service Pricing for 2024-25 School Year**

The Board recently awarded the elementary and middle school food service contracts to Quest for the 2024-2025 school year through the formal RFP process for the National School Lunch Program.

We have examined the food service programs revenues and expenses for the 2023-24 school year (see attachment). The program experienced a slight deficit for the previous school year. By law, we are not allowed to run the lunch program as a profit center. The district has accumulated over \$174K in losses since 2027-18 and losses of \$781K since joining the NSLP. Prior to joining the NSLP, the District experienced yearly losses of \$200K, on average.

Quest is now the service provider for all lunch service districtwide. The cost to the District for a full meal for next year will be \$4.25 per meal. Last year, D89 paid \$4.1715 for lunches at the elementary and \$4.2539 for lunches at the middle school. The new cost represents a 1.88% increase in the cost for the elementary level and a .09% decrease in the cost at the middle school level. Furthermore, the District will pay \$1.08 per after school snack for the GECRC. This cost is a decrease of 7.69% from the prior year.

Preliminary reimbursement rates from the federal government for the 2024-25 school year will be \$4.43 for those students on free lunch, \$4.03 for students on reduced-price lunch and \$0.42 for paying students. Historically, these rates increase slightly each new school year and we expect ISBE to announce the final rates by the end of July. With this information, I am recommending that we not increase the cost of the lunch price to students as our federal reimbursement rates are expected to cover the cost of the lunch. The cost to the students will remain at \$3.25 at the elementary level.

For reasons cited above, and with the expectation of the continued increase in federal reimbursement, I am recommending that the Board keep the meal price at \$3.50 and the a la carte entrée price at \$3.35 for next school year at the middle school level. Additionally, I am recommending the price for Adult lunches be maintained at \$4.00. We are also recommending a few increases to the prices of the other “ala carte” items as outlined below.

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The Board also needs to set the milk price at the elementary level for students who choose to purchase an individual carton of milk. Two years ago, the Board set the cost of milk at the elementary level at \$.50 per carton. I recommend the cost of milk remain \$.50 per carton for next school year.

Item	2023-2024	2024-2025
Student Lunch w/Milk	\$3.50	\$3.50
Adult Lunch w/Milk	\$4.00	\$4.00
Entrée A la Carte	\$3.35	\$3.35
Milk	\$0.50	\$0.50
Fries	\$2.15	\$2.15
Cereal	\$1.50	\$1.50
Cookie	\$0.65	\$0.75
100% Juice	\$1.50	\$1.50
Ice Cream	\$1.00	\$1.50
Bottled Water	\$1.25	\$1.25
Gatorade	\$1.50	\$1.75
Baked Chips	\$1.25	\$1.50

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