

October 28, 2025

To: Superintendent Dr. Hines

From: Patricia Magnuson and Tami Borgen

Subject: Adult and Other Non-Program Meal Prices

Re: Summary Information for School Board Review

The purpose of this memo is to provide background information for a board action item on the consent agenda at the October 28, 2025, School Board meeting. The proposed action is to increase the price of other non-program meals to \$5.25 for FY2026. This action mirrors, and is in addition to, the change in adult meal prices approved at the September 30, 2025, School Board meeting.

Summary:

Last week, districts received clarifying information about the Free School Meals Program from an MDE Nutrition Consultant, who will oversee the district's upcoming administrative review to ensure compliance with federal nutrition program requirements. In the communication, districts were reminded that during the 2025 Minnesota Legislative Special Session, Minnesota Statutes 124D.111 Subd. 6 and 124D.1158 Subd. 5 were added. These new provisions require schools to allow students to purchase a second breakfast or second lunch at no less than the non-program meal price.

Non-program food sales include any food or beverage sold outside of a reimbursable meal, such as second meals and adult meals.

Currently, the district charges \$5.00 for a second student meal. To comply with the new requirements and maintain consistency, this price must be increased in alignment with the recently approved adult meal prices. As of mid-October, no full second meals have been sold. Students typically purchase à la carte entrée items, which are priced separately and do not qualify as full meals.

The table below outlines the current and proposed pricing for non-program meals. School Board action on October 28, 2025 will adopt these proposed changes for all non-program meals, effective in FY2026.

Type	Current Price	*PLE Price	Proposed Price
Breakfast	\$3.50	\$2.50	\$3.50 (no change)
Lunch	\$5.00	\$5.05	\$5.25 (\$0.25 increase)

*PLE definition: The concept of "Paid Lunch Equity" (PLE) primarily focuses on the pricing of student lunches in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) to ensure that the revenue generated from paid student lunches is in line with federal reimbursement for free and reduced-price lunches. The aim is to prevent federal funds meant for free and reduced-price lunches from subsidizing paid student meals. Specifically, federal funding from the NSLP cannot be used to subsidize adult meals; schools must ensure that adult meal prices cover the cost.

The \$5.25 price for non-program meals will take effect on the first day of school. Clarifying guidance received in October prompted us to take formal action this month to ensure that all non-program meals, including adult meals and second student meals, are included in this pricing structure.