



Oak Park Elementary School District 97

260 W. Madison Oak Park Illinois 60302 ph: 708.524.3000 fax: 708.524.3019 www.op97.org

TO: Dr. Ushma Shah, Superintendent
Board of Education

FROM: Sheila Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations

SUBJECT: Food Service and Registration Fees Recommendations

DATE: February 9, 2024

On an annual basis, the administration reviews and determines whether lunch and/or registration fees should be increased. The fees are based upon many factors including, year of last increase, any District registration expense increase, cost of food, any ISBE mandates regarding food prices, and comparable fees at surrounding school districts.

The 2023-2024 (current) registration fee schedule is as follows:

- Early Childhood Program -The \$29.00 Student Fee covers Instructional Materials.
- Grades K-5 - The \$180 Student Fee includes: \$77.00 for Instructional Materials; \$83.00 for Before/After School & Lunch Supervision; and \$20.00 for Technology.
- Middle School - The \$225 Student Fee includes: \$20.00 Activity Fee; \$78.00 for Instructional Materials; \$107.00 for Before/After School & Lunch Supervision; and \$20.00 for Technology.

Registration Fee Recommendation

The recommended 2024-2025 registration fee schedule is as follows:

- Early Childhood Program -The \$29.00 Student Fee covers Instructional Materials.
- Grades K-5 - The \$180 Student Fee includes: \$77.00 for Instructional Materials; \$83.00 for Before/After School & Lunch Supervision; and \$20.00 for Technology.
- Middle School - The \$225 Student Fee includes: \$20.00 Activity Fee; \$78.00 for Instructional Materials; \$107.00 for Before/After School & Lunch Supervision; and \$20.00 for Technology.

It is recommended that the 2024-2025 registration fees remain unchanged.

The USDA determines a targeted paid lunch price each school year as part of the National School Lunch program requirements. A school district is required to perform a paid lunch equity calculation if their paid lunch prices are below the threshold set by the USDA for the applicable school year (\$3.56 for 2023-2024). The calculation essentially determines a weighted average of meal prices and has various requirements for increasing food prices, which includes a 2% rate increase plus the Consumer Price Index (7.4%) for 2023-2024. However, there is a cap of \$0.10 per meal on how much ISBE can require a district to increase prices per the federal guidelines.

The historical food service fee schedule has been as follows:

- Elementary - The food program pricing is as follows: Breakfast \$1.75; Lunch \$2.90; and Milk \$.45 per carton. One carton of milk is included with each breakfast and lunch.
- Middle School -The food program pricing is as follows: Breakfast \$1.75; Lunch \$3.10; and Milk \$.45 per carton. One carton of milk is included with each breakfast and lunch.
- Adult- \$3.25

Food Service Price Recommendation

The recommended 2024-2025 food service prices are as follows:

- Elementary - The food program pricing is as follows: Breakfast \$1.75; Lunch \$3.00; and Milk \$.45 per carton. One carton of milk is included with each breakfast and lunch.
- Middle School -The food program pricing is as follows: Breakfast \$1.75; Lunch \$3.20; and Milk \$.45 per carton. One carton of milk is included with each breakfast and lunch.
- Adult- \$3.25

Administration is recommending a \$.10 per meal increase for lunch for the 2024-2025 school year for the following reasons:

- The National School Lunch Program paid lunch equity requirements noted above require D97 to raise prices \$.10 at a minimum based on the results of the calculation.
- D97 participated in a food price survey of nearly 60 other school districts in Illinois. The average elementary price was \$3.16 and average middle school price was \$3.25. D97 is still below these averages even with the price increase.
- D97 raised food prices last year by \$.10 and these incremental increases will be necessary to keep up with rising inflation.