



DATE: December 17, 2021

TO: School Food Authority Administrators

FROM: Christine Emerson, Director
School Nutrition Programs

SUBJECT: Paid Lunch Equity: Guidance for School Year 2021-22

Under Section 767 of Division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021: Effect on Child Nutrition Programs, enacted on December 21, 2020, for school year 2021-2022, only a School Food Authority (SFA) that had a negative balance in the nonprofit school food service account as of December 31, 2020, shall be required to establish a price for paid lunches served through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) in accordance with section 12(p) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1760(p)).

The Appropriations Act affects one school year only. SFAs must complete the steps necessary to determine their target SY 2021-22 paid lunch price, consistent with Program regulations at 7 CFR 210.14(e), and adjust their paid meal prices accordingly. The SY 2021-22 PLE tool and instructions [may be found here](#).

SFAs with a positive or zero balance or participate in the Community Eligibility Program or the Seamless Summer Option are exempt from establishing paid lunch prices.

The OPI School Nutrition Programs has completed the PLE tool on your behalf. The tool is uploaded to the Attachment List in your Montana Agreement and Payment System (MAPS) Application Packet. You may download the tool from the Attachment List. Only data available to the OPI will be used, therefore it is not known if the district contributes non-program funds. Please review the completed tool for accuracy and make corrections.

If you have questions, please contact School Nutrition Programs at 406-444-2501.