



DATE: Dec 17, 2021

TO: School Food Authority Administrators

FROM: Christine Emerson, Director
School Nutrition Programs

SUBJECT: Paid Lunch Equity: Exemption 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)).

Consistent with the terms of the Appropriations Act, this memorandum provides notice that any SFA with a positive or zero balance or participates in the Community Eligibility Program or the Seamless Summer Option is exempt from PLE pricing requirements found at 7 CFR 210.14(e) for school year (SY) 2021-22.

The Appropriations Act affects one school year only. SFAs that are using the PLE exemption for SY 2021-22 [are posted here](#). The State agency maintains financial documentation for each SFA implementing the exemption that had a positive or zero balance in the nonprofit school food service account as of December 31, 2020.

SFAs still maintain the discretion to 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](#).

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