



DATE: August 19, 2019

TO: School Food Authority Administrators

FROM: Christine Emerson, Director
School Nutrition Programs

SUBJECT: Paid Lunch Equity: Guidance for School Year 2019-20

In Section 760 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (Public Law 116-6) (the Appropriations Act), Congress provides that only school food authorities (SFAs) that had a negative balance in the nonprofit school food service account as of December 31, 2018, shall be required to establish prices for paid lunches according to the Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) provisions in Section 12(p) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. 1760(p) and implemented in National School Lunch Program regulations at 7 CFR 210.14(e).

SFAs that had a negative balance in the nonprofit school food service account as of December 31, 2018, must follow PLE requirements when establishing their prices for paid lunches in SY 2019-20.

The Appropriations Act affects one school year only.

SFAs must complete the steps necessary to determine their target SY 2019-20 paid lunch price, consistent with Program regulations at 7 CFR 210.14(e), and adjust their paid meal prices accordingly. The SY 2019-20 PLE tool and instructions [may be found here](#).

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.