

Indirect Cost

Indirect Cost is a function that may be used to lighten the financial burden on a School Food Authority for shared services throughout the buildings including the food services. The USDA Administrative Review Manual states the “They typically support administrative overhead functions, such as fringe benefits, accounting, payroll, purchasing, facilities management, and utilities.”

Two Ways to Determine Indirect Cost Rate

- Accept rates provided by ISBE
 - Rates are determined based on Annual Financial Report from 2 years prior
 - Schools not provided a rate may use De Minimis rate of 10%
- Determine own Indirect Cost rates
 - Rates determined based on square footage of buildings
 - Rate still must be approved by ISBE before use.

Two Factors Viewed Closest with Indirect Cost

- Indirect Cost rate established for review year and the corresponding direct cost base
- Documentation to determine allocation of indirect cost is accurate.

Review Procedures Conducted by ISBE

- Review rates SFA is using fall within range provided
- Ensure SFA is using rate against correct direct cost base
- Determine the SFA is using rate consistently
- Confirm the SFA has not loaned from or to previous years
- Confirm consistency as indirect or direct for allocation
- Final check of all

Possible Citations under Indirect Cost

- Nonprofit School Foodservice Account was charged more than the approved rate
- Applying correct rate to incorrect direct cost base
- Indirect Cost were not applied consistently
- Double dipping involved with indirect cost and direct cost
- No supporting documentation to show allocations