

School Year 2022-23 Paid Lunch Equity Exemption
Illinois State Board of Education
Nutrition Department

Under the Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) requirement, School Food Authorities are required to ensure that there are sufficient funds provided to the nonprofit school food service account for lunches served to students not eligible for free or reduced priced meals.

There are two ways to meet this requirement: annually raise the prices charged for paid lunches or providing equivalent amount of funds from nonfederal sources to the nonprofit school food service account.

USDA Memo SP 07-2020 states in Section 747 of Division B of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116-94) that School Food Authorities with a positive or zero balance in their nonprofit food service account as of Dec. 31, 2021, are exempt from the PLE requirements found in 7 CFR 210.14(e) for SY 2022-23. School Food Authorities with a negative balance in the nonprofit school food service account as of Dec. 31, 2021, must follow the PLE requirements when establishing their prices for paid lunches in SY 2022-23 according to the 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).

Using the form below, the School Food Authority must provide the balance in their nonprofit food service account as of Dec. 31, 2021, to be considered for the exemption. Documentation should be maintained with this exemption in order to validate this balance for the School Food Authority. This documentation may be reviewed by the State Agency during a Resource Management Review. Please be aware that the U.S. Department of Agriculture may seek additional information on the financial standing of the School Food Authority approved for exemptions in order to inform future policy considerations.

This Paid Lunch Equity Exemption may NOT be used as a corrective action plan to previous citations under the Paid Lunch Equity requirements.

When completed, please email completed and signed information to plexemption@isbe.net

**Paid Lunch Equity Exemption Request for SY 22-23
Illinois State Board of Education, Nutrition Department**

School Food Authority (District/School Name):	Agreement/RCDT# (00-000-000-00):
Contact Person:	Contact Phone:
City:	Contact Email:

1. Provide the balance in the nonprofit food service account as of Dec. 31, 2021

Balance as of Dec. 31, 2021:

Name of Authorized Representative Signature of Authorized Representative Date

This Paid Lunch Equity Exemption may NOT be used as a corrective action plan to previous citations under the Paid Lunch Equity requirements.