

School-Based Child Nutrition Programs Rates of Reimbursement

Effective July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

National School Lunch Program

	Less Than 60%	Less Than 60% + 9 Cents**	60% or More*	60% or More* + 9 Cents**
Paid	\$0.45	\$0.54	\$0.47	\$0.56
Reduced-Price	\$4.36	\$4.45	\$4.38	\$4.47
Free	\$4.76	\$4.85	\$4.78	\$4.87

The maximum price a sponsor can charge for a student reduced-price lunch is \$0.40.

* The higher rate of reimbursement for lunch (60% or more) applies if 60% or more of the lunches served by an SFA during the second preceding school year were served free or at a reduced price.

** Additional 9 cents requires a one-time [menu certification](#)

School Breakfast Program

	Non-Severe Need	Severe Need*
Paid	\$0.42	\$0.42
Reduced-Price	\$2.24	\$2.75
Free	\$2.54	\$3.05

The maximum price a sponsor can charge for a student reduced-price breakfast is \$0.30.

* The higher rate of reimbursement for breakfast (Severe-Need) applies if 40% or more of the lunches served at the site in the second preceding school year were served free or at a reduced price.

Special Milk Program

	All Milk	Paid Milk	Free Milk
Pricing Program Without Free Option and Nonpricing Programs	\$0.28		
Pricing Program With Free Option		\$0.28	Average cost per ½ pint milk

After-School Snacks in After-School Care Programs

	Snack
Paid	\$0.12
Reduced-Price	\$0.65
Free	\$1.30

The maximum price a sponsor can charge for a student reduced-price after-school snack is \$0.15.

Food Distribution Program

Planned Assistance Level (PAL) for NSLP = \$0.47 (per lunch rate of \$0.32 PLUS the 12% provision dollars and the \$20M breakfast dollars for NSLP)

Illinois Free Breakfast and Lunch Programs

\$0.11 per each free breakfast and/or lunch

A la Carte Equivalency Factor – for use in FSMC/Vendor contracts

Federal free lunch reimbursement (more than 60% + 9 cents) plus PAL plus Illinois free lunch reimbursement

SY2026-2027 Contract - \$5.20

SY2027-2028 Contract - \$5.45