Minnesota Department of Education

School Nutrition Programs
Meal Pricing Requirements for SY 2012-13

Student - Minimum Prices for Paid Meals

***Paid lunches*:** School food authorities are required each year to evaluate their paid lunch prices for students, and determine how much the prices must be increased for the next school year. The guidelines for evaluating student lunch prices are provided in the "**Paid Lunch Equity" spreadsheet** and related documents on the *School Nutrition Programs / Financial Management* page of the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) website.

***Paid breakfasts*:** School food authorities should annually review whether paid breakfast prices need to be increased to meet program costs. "Paid lunch equity" calculations do not apply to breakfast.

Student - Maximum Prices for Reduced-Price Meals

***Reduced-price Lunches*:** The maximum reduced-price lunch charge for students continues to be **40 cents**.

***Reduced-price Breakfasts*:** State law requires schools offering a school breakfast program to offer breakfasts at **no charge** to students who qualify for reduced-price breakfasts. Minn. Stat. §124D.1158. State payments provide the 30 cents per reduced-price breakfast to school food authorities that families otherwise would have paid. Breakfasts served at no charge to students who qualify for reduced-price meals must be accurately claimed for program reimbursement as reduced-price breakfasts, not free breakfasts.

Minimum Prices for Meals Served to Adults and Other Non-Reimbursable Meals

School Nutrition Programs funds may not subsidize non-program meals.* Meals purchased by adults (and other non-reimbursable meals such as second meals) must be priced high enough so that the cost of the meal is fully paid by the customer. The minimum meal prices for adults shown below are set by the current rate of reimbursement received for student free meals, including the value of USDA Foods, rounded up to the nearest five cents.

Minimum Adult Prices: Breakfast: $1.55 Lunch: $3.25

* Meals may be provided at no charge only to "program" adults, as defined in the memorandum *Prohibition on Subsidizing Meals for Non-Program Adults* on the *School Nutrition Programs / Financial Management* page of the MDE website.

If you have any questions about this information, contact Food and Nutrition Service at 651-582-8526, 800-366-8922 (MN Toll-free), or e-mail to mde.fns@state.mn.us.