



Roger D. Breed, Ed.D., Commissioner
Scott Swisher, Ed.D., Deputy Commissioner

301 Centennial Mall South Tel: (402) 471-2295
PO Box 94987 Fax: (402) 471-0117
Lincoln, NE 68509-4987 Web: www.education.ne.gov

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To: Authorized Representatives, National School Lunch Program

From: Bev Benes, Director Nutrition Services *Bev Benes*

Subject: Paid Lunch Equity: School Year 2012-2013 Calculations and Tool

As part of the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-296), Section 205 addresses equity in school lunch pricing. School Food Authorities (SFA) participating in the National School Lunch Program need to ensure sufficient funds are provided to the nonprofit school food service account for lunches served to students not eligible for free or reduced price meals. There are two ways to meet this requirement: either through the prices charged for paid lunches or through other non-Federal sources provided to the nonprofit school food service account.

School Year (SY) 2012-2013 Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) Calculations

SFAs must annually review their paid lunch revenue to assure compliance with the paid lunch equity requirement. When the average paid lunch price is less than the difference between the free and paid Federal reimbursements rates, the SFA must determine how they will meet the requirement. For SY 2012-2013 SFAs which, on average, charge less than \$2.51 for paid lunches in SY 2011-2012 are required to adjust their average price or provide additional funds from non-Federal sources to the non-profit school food service account. SFAs will be required to utilize the PLE Calculator to determine which method the SFA will utilize to meet the requirement.

SFAs must keep a printed copy of the PLE report as documentation that the annual review of paid meal prices has been completed; see Tab 6 of the PLE calculator. The PLE tool includes detailed user instructions and a report tab that SFAs can print and keep as documentation.

Each SFA will receive the following items electronically from the Nebraska Department of Education Nutrition Services:

- USDA Memo SP 22-2012 Paid Lunch Equity: School Year 2012-2013 Calculations and Tool
- USDA Memo SP 39-2011 Revised Child Nutrition Reauthorization 2010: Guidance on Paid Lunch Equity and Revenue from Nonprogram Foods
- SY 2012-2013 PLE Calculator (in Excel spreadsheet format)
- A copy of this Nutrition Services' memo

Before using the PLE Calculator, read all materials carefully. The PLE Calculator includes step by step instructions for completion and the USDA memos will provide clarification. If you need assistance, please contact Nutrition Services at 1-800-731-2233.

Enclosure: SP 39-2011