

## A la Carte Food Cost and Price Charged Comparison Worksheet for the School Nutrition Programs

A la carte pricing applies to all foods and beverages sold separately from reimbursable meals in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) [National School Lunch Program \(NSLP\)](#), [School Breakfast Program \(SBP\)](#) and separately from reimbursable afterschool snacks in the [Afterschool Snack Program \(ASP\)](#) of the NSLP. A la carte prices must cover the cost of producing the item such as food cost, labor, and indirect costs. A la carte pricing should not create an incentive for students to choose a la carte items because the price is less than a reimbursable meal.

School food authorities (SFAs) should use this form demonstrate that the price charged for each a la carte food and beverage item covers all costs of producing the item. If an item flags as negative in column 4, it will display in red with pink shading, and the product's price must be reevaluated to ensure that it covers all applicable costs.

### Access CSDE's A la Carte Food Cost and Price Charged Comparison Worksheet

SFAs may use the CSDE's *A la Carte Food Cost and Price Charged Comparison Worksheet for the School Nutrition Programs* to determine the unit price for adult meals.

Click to access the CSDE's [A la Carte Food Cost and Price Charged Comparison Worksheet for the School Nutrition Programs](#).

### How to Use the Worksheets

Complete the yellow fields. All other fields calculate automatically.

**Note:** Column 4 is the difference between the actual price charged and the food cost. If this number is negative, it will display in red with pink shading. This means that the product's price is too low and must be reevaluated to ensure that it covers all applicable costs.

### Questions

For questions regarding this worksheet, please contact the district's CSDE [school nutrition team member](#).

### Resource

Nonprogram Foods (CSDE Financial Management for School Nutrition Program webpage):  
<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/financial-management-for-school-nutrition-programs/documents#NonprogramFoods>

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For more information, visit the “[Nonprogram Foods](#)” section of the CSDE’s [Financial Management for School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage or contact the [school nutrition programs staff](#) at the Connecticut State Department of Education, Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504, Hartford, CT 06103-1841. This document is available at [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nspl/forms/a\\_la\\_carte\\_food\\_cost\\_price\\_charged\\_worksheet\\_introduction.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nspl/forms/a_la_carte_food_cost_price_charged_worksheet_introduction.pdf).

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1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

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