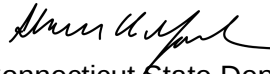




STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Sponsors of the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program and Special Milk Program

FROM: Shannon K. Yearwood, Bureau Chief 
Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs, Connecticut State Department of Education

DATE: August 12, 2026

SUBJECT: Operational Memorandum No. 12-26
Federal Meal Reimbursement Rates for School Year (SY):
July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

This memorandum summarizes the annual adjustments to the federal reimbursement rates for local educational agencies (LEAs) for lunches, breakfasts, afterschool snacks, and milk served to students participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Afterschool Snack Program (ASP), and Special Milk Program (SMP); and the NSLP reimbursement rate for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) donated foods for SY 2026-27.

As published in the Federal Register (FR) ([91 FR 43597](#) and [91 FR 43079](#)), the SY 2026-27 federal meal reimbursement rates are listed below. In addition to these rates, LEAs certified as meeting the meal pattern and nutrition standard requirements set forth in 7 CFR parts 210 and 220 are eligible to receive performance-based cash assistance for each reimbursable lunch served in the amount of **9 cents per lunch** effective July 1, 2026.

As a reminder, LEAs must set reduced-price charges for lunches, breakfasts, and afterschool snacks at or below the maximum reduced-price allowed by regulations. Reduced-price rates cannot exceed 40 cents per lunch, 30 cents per breakfast, and 15 cents for afterschool snacks.

National School Lunch Program

Meal category	Regular rates	Severe need rates *
Paid	\$.45	\$.47
Reduced price	\$ 4.36	\$ 4.38
Free	\$ 4.76	\$ 4.78

* Severe need rates are available to districts where, in the second prior year, 60 percent or more of the students received lunches free or at a reduced price.

School Breakfast Program

Meal category	Regular rates	Severe need rates *
Paid	\$.42	\$.42
Reduced price	\$ 2.24	\$ 2.75
Free	\$ 2.54	\$ 3.05

* Severe need rates are available to districts where, in the second prior year, 40 percent or more of the students received lunches free or at a reduced price.

Special Milk Program

Rate: \$.28 per half pint. Milk served free of charge to eligible students will be reimbursed at the average cost per half pint of milk.

Afterschool Snack Program

Meal category	Rate
Paid	\$.12
Reduced price	\$.65
Free	\$ 1.30

Effective SY 2026-27 NSLP Rate for USDA Foods

Rate: \$.47

The published per meal rate from the Federal Register for SY 2026-27 is 30 cents. The per meal rate (30.5 cents) plus the 12 percent provision dollars and the 20 million breakfast dollars make the effective NSLP rate 47 cents for SY 2026-27.

Questions may be directed to your CSDE [school nutrition team member](#).

SKY:tdd

Important: This is a numbered Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) operational memorandum that contains important program information. Please read carefully and retain for future reference. All CSDE operational memoranda are posted on the CSDE's [Operational Memoranda for School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.

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