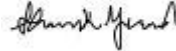




STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Sponsors of School Child Nutrition Programs (including the Special Milk Program)

FROM: Shannon Yearwood, Bureau Chief 
Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs

DATE: July 28, 2023

SUBJECT: Operational Memorandum No. 17-23
Federal Meal Reimbursement Rates for School Year (SY):
July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

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 2023-24.

As published in the Federal Register (FR) ([87 FR 44329](#) and [87 FR 42138](#)), the SY 2023-24 federal meal reimbursement rates are listed below.

National School Lunch Program (NSLP)		
Meal category	Regular rates	Severe need rates *
Paid	\$.40	\$.42
Reduced	\$3.85	\$3.87
Free	\$4.25	\$4.27
<p>* For districts participating in the NSLP with 60 percent or more of the students received lunches free or at the reduced rate during the second prior year. Refer to CSDE Operational Memorandum No. 16-23, <i>Determining Eligibility for Severe Need Reimbursement for the School Breakfast Program and the Two-cent Differential Reimbursement for the National School Lunch Program in School Year 2023-24</i>.</p>		

School Breakfast Program		
Meal category	Regular rates	Severe need rates *
Paid	\$.38	\$.38
Reduced	\$1.98	\$2.43
Free	\$2.28	\$2.73

* Severe need rates are available to schools where, in the second prior year, 40 percent or more of the students received lunches free or at a reduced price. Refer to [CSDE Operational Memorandum No. 16-23, Determining Eligibility for Severe Need Reimbursement for the School Breakfast Program and the Two-cent Differential Reimbursement for the National School Lunch Program in School Year 2023-24](#).

Special Milk Program
Rate: \$.2625 *

* 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	\$.10
Reduced	\$.58
Free	\$ 1.17

Effective SY 2023-24 NSLP Rate for USDA Foods
Rate: \$.3650

The published per meal rate from the Federal Register for SY 2023-24 is .2950 cents. This is a decrease from the rate of .3000 in SY 2022-2023. The per meal rate (.2950 cents) plus the 12 percent provision dollars and the 20 million breakfast dollars make the effective NSLP rate .3650 cents for SY 2023-24.

In addition to the rates above, 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 **8 cents per lunch** effective July 1, 2023.

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.**

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

SY:saa

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.