

# Paid Lunch Equity (PLE)

## 2023-2024

RCCIs do not need to complete the Paid Lunch Equity Tools, as all students are free. Exception: RCCIs with day treatment centers (students are not residents)



- **WHAT IS PAID LUNCH EQUITY?**
- **WHEN AND HOW DO I CALCULATE MY PAID LUNCH EQUITY REQUIREMENT?**
- **CAN WE APPLY FOR AN EXEMPTION FROM THE PLE REQUIREMENT?**

# Paid Lunch Equity (PLE)



## Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010

- Increase prices charged for “paid” lunches, or
- Provide other non-Federal sources to the nonprofit school food service account

## Calculation of the Paid Lunch Equity

- |            |        |
|------------|--------|
| • SY 16-17 | \$2.78 |
| • SY 17-18 | \$2.86 |
| • SY 18-19 | \$2.92 |
| • SY 19-20 | \$3.00 |
| • SY20-21  | \$3.09 |
| • SY 21-22 | \$3.18 |
| • SY 22-23 | \$3.31 |
| • SY23-24  | \$3.56 |

# Paid Lunch Equity (PLE)



## SFAs Qualifying for the SY 2023-2024 PLE Exemption

- For SY 2023-2024 SFAs with a positive or zero balance in the nonprofit school food service account as of June 30, 2022, SFA's are exempt from PLE pricing requirements found at [7 CFR 210.14\(e\)](#).
  - An attestation needs to be completed verifying that SFA's nonprofit food service account was positive or zero balance as of **June 30, 2022**. *Once the attestation statement is submitted, you should receive an email receipt verifying submission. Please keep this receipt and verification of your balance of your school food service account as of June 30, 2022, to be considered approved.*
- While not required, exempt SFAs may still use the PLE tool to complete the steps necessary to determine their target SY 2023-2024 paid lunch price, consistent with Program regulation at [7 CFR 210.14\(e\)](#), and adjust their paid lunch prices accordingly. Please note,, the SY 2023-2024 PLE tool and instructions can be found at: [Paid Lunch Equity \(PLE\)](#)
- **The weighted average price for 2023-2024 should be at or above \$3.56**
- If you have any questions, please email: [SCNFinance@doe.in.gov](mailto:SCNFinance@doe.in.gov) (*Please put your sponsor number, and "PLE Tool" in the subject line*).
- Common Questions & Answers can be found at: [Paid Lunch Equity \(PLE\)](#)

# Paid Lunch Equity (PLE)



## **SFAs Not Qualifying for the SY 2023-2024 PLE Exemption**

- SFAs that had a negative balance in the nonprofit school food service account as of **June 30, 2022**, must follow PLE requirement according to [7 CFR 210.14\(e\)](#) when establishing their paid lunch prices for SY 2023-2024. SFAs may use the PLE tool found at: [Paid Lunch Equity \(PLE\)](#) to determine their paid lunch prices.

# Paid Lunch Equity (PLE)



## SFAs Not Qualifying for the SY 2023-2024 PLE Exemption

- In the PLE tool, SFAs may use the price they last charged students as the basis for the SY 2023-2024 paid lunch equity price calculation, even if those prices were charged during a year the SFA was not required to comply with PLE requirements. *For example, SFAs that received flexibility under the PLE waiver during SY 2022-2023 or that were exempt based on the FY 2022 Appropriations Act may use prices charged during SY 2022-2023 to determine their PLE requirement for SY 2023-2024*
- If an SFA did not charge for meals during SY 2022-2023, such as an SFA that operated the Community Eligibility Provision, Provision 2 or 3, or a State funded non-pricing option and is returning to standard counting and claiming in SY 2023-2024, it may use the most recent paid lunch price date as the basis for its SY 2023-2024 paid lunch calculation. If an SFA is unable to find documentation of the last paid meal price charged to students, then it must follow FNS guidance for new schools found in [Guidance on Paid Lunch Equity and Revenue from Nonprogram Foods | Food and Nutrition Service \(usda.gov\)](#).

*Consistent with 7 CFR 210.14(e)(4)(i), SFAs are not required to raise their paid lunch price by more than 10 cents for SY 2023-2024 from the last year they charged for paid lunches. SFAs can still choose to raise the price by more than 10 cents.*

# Paid Lunch Equity (PLE)



## PLE Tool Excel Tabs:

Tab 1: Instructions (Enter sponsor number and name in cell C2)

Tab 2: Unrounded Requirement Finder

Tab 3: SY 23-24 Price Calculator

Tab 4: SY 23-24 Non-Federal Calculator

Tab 5: SY 23-24 Split Calculator

Tab 6: SY 2023-24 REPORT

Tab 7: SY 22-23 Price Calculator

Tab 8: SY 10-11 Price Calculator

Tab 9: PLE Guidance

*You will start with the Instructions tab by entering your sponsor number and school name in cell C2*

# Unrounded Requirement Finder Step 1



## Tab 2: Unrounded Requirement Finder

*If a PLE Tool was not completed for 2022-2023, you may want to enter your October 2022 Monthly # of Paid Lunches, and Paid Lunch Price on the SY 23-24 Price Calculator tab*

Price requirement  
(unrounded) from SY 2022-  
2023 PLE Tool

SFA NAME:	example: 1234 Indiana Community School
<b>Step 1</b>	
<b>Enter the SY 2022-23 Unrounded Price Requirement in the box below</b>	<b>SY 2023-24 Weighted Average Price Requirement</b>
<i>This is found in Section 1: Box A of the SY 2022-23 REPORT from the SY 2022-23 tool or below (Price 2)</i>	<b>Requirement price to the nearest cent</b>
	\$ -
<small>Note: Above prices are based on adjusting SY 2022-23 price requirement by the 2% rate increase plus the Consumer Price Index (7.4%)</small>	

# Weighted Average Price Calculator (Step 2)



SY 2022-23 Weighted Average Price Calculator				
Enter the paid prices and number of paid lunches sold at each price for October 2022.				
	Monthly # of Paid Lunches	Paid Lunch Price	Monthly Revenue	SY 2022-23 Weighted Average Price
1.	1,000	\$ 2.00	\$ 2,000.00	
2.	500	\$ 1.00	\$ 500.00	
3.			\$ -	
4.			\$ -	
5.			\$ -	
6.			\$ -	
7.			\$ -	
8.			\$ -	
9.			\$ -	
10.			\$ -	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,500</b>		<b>\$ 2,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 1.67</b>

*Note: SY 2022-23 Weighted Average Price equal to or above the target price of \$3.56 is compliant for SY 2023-24. \$3.56 is the difference between the Free and Paid reimbursement rates for SY 2022-23.*

**Current Weighted Average Price**

Total Price Increase for SY 2023-24  
\$ -

Required price increase for SY 2023-24 (with 10 cent cap)  
No price increase necessary



# Step 3



## Pricing Estimation Calculator

Below is a tool allowing users to manipulate prices to achieve the required new weighted average price.

	Monthly # of Paid Lunches	Paid Lunch Price	Monthly Revenue	Weighted Average Price
1.	1,422	\$ 2.40	\$ 3,412.80	
2.	2,104	\$ 2.55	\$ 5,365.20	
3.			\$ -	
4.			\$ -	
5.			\$ -	
6.			\$ -	
7.			\$ -	
8.			\$ -	
9.			\$ -	
10.			\$ -	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,526</b>		<b>\$ 8,778.00</b>	<b>\$ 2.49</b>

**New Weighted Average Price**

# PLE Exemptions



- A PLE Exemption, if approved by the State Agency, allows a school meeting pre-determined criteria, an exemption from the PLE Pricing requirements. This means the school will not have to raise paid lunch prices for that year. The school will need to complete an attestation statement that can be found at: [Paid Lunch Equity \(PLE\)](#)
- Congress determines whether to allow exemptions each year and the State Agency has the authority to approve or deny the requests based on multiple factors.

# PLE Exemptions SY 2020-2021



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# State Agency Contact



For questions about **Financial Management of the Food Service Account**, contact:

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Common questions and answer can be found at: [Paid Lunch](#)

[Equity \(PLE\)](#) Or

Email: [SCNfiance@doe.in.gov](mailto:SCNfiance@doe.in.gov)

*(Please be sure to include your sponsor number and PLE Tool in the subject line)*