



SAPULPA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CHILD NUTRITION

Hayley Holmes, Director • hholmes@sapulpaps.org

April 3, 2026

Sapulpa Schools Board of Education

Recommendation for Student Meal Price Adjustment - SY 2026-2027

I am writing to formally recommend a \$.50 increase in the price of paid student meals, effective for the upcoming 2026-2027 school year. This adjustment is necessary to ensure our nutrition program remains self-sustaining and continues to provide high-quality, balanced meals to our students.

While we strive to keep costs as low as possible for our families, several external economic factors have created significant budgetary pressure:

- **Rising Food Costs:** According to the USDA Food Price Outlook, overall food prices are predicted to rise by 3.6% in 2026. Since 2021, cumulative food price increases have reached approximately 25–28%, dramatically outpacing federal reimbursement adjustments. Our program has faced even steeper increases in core staples like beef, fresh vegetables, and dairy products.
- **Operational & Supply Expenses:** Beyond food, we have seen a double-digit rise in the cost of paper products, packaging and equipment repairs.
- **Funding Gaps:** Current federal reimbursement rates often fall short of the actual cost to produce a meal, now estimated at over \$4.70 per lunch, leaving a deficit that local paid meal revenue must help bridge.

Our goal is to maintain a self-supportive program without impacting the general fund. An increase will allow us to absorb these inflationary pressures while continuing to meet strict federal nutrition standards.

The tables below detail the current and proposed pricing for both breakfast and lunch, along with federal reimbursement rates and the per-meal deficit our program absorbs.

Thank you for your continued support of our students' health and well-being.

Sincerely,

Hayley Holmes
Child Nutrition Director



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Breakfast Pricing — Current vs. Proposed

Current Breakfast Pricing

Grade Level	Current Price	Fed. Reimb. (Paid)	Fed. Reimb. (Free)	Deficit per Meal
Pre-K thru 12th	\$1.75	\$0.40	\$2.94	\$0.79

Proposed Breakfast Pricing

Grade Level	Proposed Price	Fed. Reimb. (Paid)	Fed. Reimb. (Free)	Deficit per Meal
Pre-K thru 12th	\$2.25	\$0.40	\$2.94	\$0.29

► **Impact:** The proposed \$0.50 increase reduces the breakfast deficit from \$0.79 to \$0.29 per meal — a 63% reduction in the per-meal gap our program is absorbing.

Lunch Pricing — Current vs. Proposed

Current Lunch Pricing

Grade Level	Current Price	Fed. Reimb. (Paid)	Fed. Reimb. (Free)	Deficit per Meal
Pre-K – 5th	\$2.50	\$0.54	\$4.71	\$1.67
6th – 7th	\$2.75	\$0.54	\$4.71	\$1.42
8th – 12th	\$3.00	\$0.54	\$4.71	\$1.17

Proposed Lunch Pricing

Grade Level	Proposed Price	Fed. Reimb. (Paid)	Fed. Reimb. (Free)	Deficit per Meal
Pre-K – 5th	\$3.00	\$0.54	\$4.71	\$1.17
6th – 7th	\$3.25	\$0.54	\$4.71	\$0.92
8th – 12th	\$3.50	\$0.54	\$4.71	\$0.67

► **Impact:** The proposed \$0.50 increase reduces the lunch deficit by 30–43% across all grade levels.

Deficit Reduction Summary

Meal	Grade Level	Current Deficit	Proposed Deficit	Savings per Meal
Breakfast	Pre-K – 12th	\$0.79	\$0.29	\$0.50
Lunch	Pre-K – 5th	\$1.67	\$1.17	\$0.50
Lunch	6th – 7th	\$1.42	\$0.92	\$0.50
Lunch	8th – 12th	\$1.17	\$0.67	\$0.50



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Yearly Financial Impact of Meal Deficits

The following table illustrates the total dollar impact of per-meal deficits based on actual meals served. These figures represent real dollars our program absorbs that must be offset by other revenue sources.

School Year	Meal Type	Meals Served	Avg. Deficit/Meal	Total Deficit
SY 2024–25	Breakfast	14,680	\$0.79	\$11,597.20
SY 2024–25	Lunch	63,687	\$1.42	\$90,435.54
SY 2024–25	Combined Total	78,367	—	\$102,032.74
SY 2025–26 (YTD)	Breakfast	12,082	\$0.79	\$9,544.78
SY 2025–26 (YTD)	Lunch	52,104	\$1.42	\$73,987.68
SY 2025–26 (YTD)	Combined Total	64,186	—	\$83,532.46

► **Bottom Line:** In SY 2024–25, the district absorbed over \$102,000 in meal deficits. The current SY 2025–26 is on pace to exceed that figure. Without a price adjustment, these losses will continue to grow as food and operational costs rise.

Projected Savings with Proposed \$0.50 Increase

► **Projected Result:** The proposed increase would recover approximately \$39,184 annually, reducing the total yearly deficit from \$102,033 to an estimated \$62,849 — a 38% improvement in program sustainability.

► Even with the proposed increase, the district will continue to absorb a deficit on every paid meal served. Federal reimbursement for paid meals (\$0.40 for breakfast, \$0.54 for lunch) covers only a fraction of the true cost. The proposed pricing brings our program closer to sustainability while remaining affordable for families.



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Surrounding Districts Meal Prices — Comparison

District	Breakfast	Elementary Lunch	Middle School Lunch	JR/SR High Lunch
Glenpool	\$2.60	\$3.55	\$3.65	\$4.00
Claremore	\$2.25	\$3.75	\$3.75	\$4.00
Catoosa	\$2.50	\$3.25	\$3.25	\$3.75
Kellyville	\$2.00	\$2.85	\$2.85	\$3.25
Sand Springs	\$1.80	\$2.70	\$3.00	\$3.10



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July 2, 2024

Paid Meal Price Increase Recommendation

The USDA Paid Lunch Equity requirement is a policy aimed at ensuring that the revenue generated from paid student lunches in schools participating in the National School Lunch Program is sufficient to cover the cost of providing those meals. The goal is to ensure that federal funds intended for free and reduced-price meals are not used to subsidize the cost of paid meals. The USDA provides guidance on the minimum average price that should be charged, while also providing exemptions for School Food Authorities (SFA) maintaining a positive fund balance.

Sapulpa Public Schools paid meal rates have remained unchanged for more than 4 years, while food costs and overhead have continued to rise. In an effort to maintain financial sustainability and comply with USDA regulations, I recommend a \$.25 increase to all paid meal prices for School Year 2024-2025.

Meal/Site	Current Price	SY25 Price
Breakfast - All Grades	\$1.75	\$2.00
Elementary Lunch	\$2.50	\$2.75
Middle School Lunch	\$2.75	\$3.00
Jr/Sr High Lunch	\$3.00	\$3.25
Adults	\$4.75	\$5.00

Regards,

Hayley Holmes

*DE approved
7.17.24
m Jones*