

provide assurance where necessary that foodstuffs comply with requirements, especially statutory health requirements;

(c) to develop guidelines for the utilization, as and when appropriate, of quality assurance systems to ensure that foodstuffs conform with requirements and to promote the recognition of these systems in facilitating trade in food products under bilateral/multilateral arrangements by countries;

(d) to develop guidelines and criteria with respect to format, declarations and language of such official certificates as countries may require with a view towards international harmonization;

(e) to make recommendations for information exchange in relation to food import/export control;

(f) to consult as necessary with other international groups working on matters related to food inspection and certification systems; and,

(g) to consider other matters assigned to it by the Commission in relation to food inspection and certification systems.

Quality assurance means all those planned and systematic actions necessary to provide adequate confidence that a product or service will satisfy given requirements for quality (ISO-8402 Quality—Vocabulary).

The CCFICS is hosted by Australia. The United States attends the CCFICS as a member country of Codex.

Issues To Be Discussed at the Public Meeting

The following items from the Provisional Agenda for the 27th Session of the CCFICS will be discussed during the public meeting:

- Matters arising from the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies
- Information on activities of the FAO and WHO and other international organizations relevant to the work of CCFICS
- Draft Consolidated Codex Guidelines related to Equivalence
- Draft Guidelines on the Prevention and Control of Food Fraud
- Draft revision and updating of the *Principles for Traceability/Product Tracing as a Tool Within a Food Inspection and Certification System* (CXG 60–2006)
- Discussion paper on guidance on appeals mechanism in the context of rejection of imported food
- Discussion paper on the standardization of sanitary requirements
- Review and update of Appendix A—the list of emerging global issues
- Other business

Public Meeting

At the August 21, 2024, public meeting, draft U.S. positions on the agenda items will be described and discussed, and attendees will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments. Written comments may be offered at the meeting or sent to Dr. Michelle Catlin, U.S. Delegate to the 27th Session of the CCFICS, at michelle.catlin@usda.gov. Written comments should state that they relate to activities of the 27th Session of the CCFICS.

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, the U.S. Codex Office will announce this **Federal Register** publication on-line through the USDA Codex web page located at: <http://www.usda.gov/codex>, a link that also offers an email subscription service providing access to information related to Codex. Customers can add or delete their subscriptions themselves and have the option to password protect their accounts.

USDA Non-Discrimination Statement

No agency, officer, or employee of the USDA shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, or political beliefs, exclude from participation in, deny the benefits of, or subject to discrimination any person in the United States under any program or activity conducted by the USDA.

How To File a Complaint of Discrimination

To file a complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which may be accessed online at <https://www.usda.gov/oascr/filing-program-discrimination-complaint-usda-customer>, or write a letter signed by you or your authorized representative. Send your completed complaint form or letter to USDA by mail, fax, or email. Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250–9410; Fax: (202) 690–7442; Email: program.intake@usda.gov. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720–2600 (voice and TDD).

Done at Washington, DC, on July 3, 2024.

Julie A. Chao,

Deputy U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius.

[FR Doc. 2024–15096 Filed 7–9–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3420–3F–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

National School Lunch, Special Milk, and School Breakfast Programs, National Average Payments/Maximum Reimbursement Rates

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice announces the annual adjustments to the national average payments, the amount of money the Federal Government provides States for lunches, afterschool snacks, and breakfasts served to children participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs; to the maximum reimbursement rates, the maximum per lunch rate from Federal funds that a State can provide a school food authority for lunches served to children participating in the National School Lunch Program; and to the rate of reimbursement for a half-pint of milk served to non-needy children in a school or institution that participates in the Special Milk Program for Children. The annual payments and rates adjustments for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs reflect changes in the Food Away From Home series of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers. The annual rate adjustment for the Special Milk Program reflects changes in the Producer Price Index for Fluid Milk Products. Further adjustments are made to these rates to reflect higher costs of providing meals in Alaska, Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands. The payments and rates are prescribed on an annual basis each July.

DATES: These rates are in effect from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Penny Burke, Branch Chief, Program Monitoring and Operational Support Division, Child Nutrition Programs, FNS USDA, 1320 Braddock Place, Suite 401, Alexandria, VA 22314, 303–844–0357.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Special Milk Program for Children— Pursuant to section 3 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1772), the Department announces

the rate of reimbursement for a half pint of milk served to non-needy children in a school or institution that participates in the Special Milk Program for Children. This rate is adjusted annually to reflect changes in the Producer Price Index for Fluid Milk Products, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.

National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs—Pursuant to sections 11 and 17A of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, (42 U.S.C. 1759a and 1766a), and section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773), the Department annually announces the adjustments to the National Average Payment Factors and to the maximum Federal reimbursement rates for lunches and afterschool snacks served to children participating in the National School Lunch Program and breakfasts served to children participating in the School Breakfast Program. Adjustments are prescribed each July 1, based on changes in the Food Away From Home series of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.

Lunch Payment Levels—Section 4 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1753) provides general cash for food assistance payments to States to assist schools in purchasing food. The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act provides two different section 4 payment levels for lunches served under the National School Lunch Program. The lower payment level applies to lunches served by school food authorities in which less than 60 percent of the lunches served in the school lunch program during the second preceding school year were served free or at a reduced price. The higher payment level applies to lunches served by school food authorities in which 60 percent or more of the lunches served during the second preceding school year were served free or at a reduced price.

To supplement these section 4 payments, section 11 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1759(a)) provides special cash assistance payments to aid schools in providing free and reduced-price lunches. The section 11 National Average Payment Factor for each reduced-price lunch served is set at 40 cents less than the factor for each free lunch.

As authorized under sections 8 and 11 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1757 and 1759a), maximum reimbursement rates for each type of lunch are prescribed by

the Department in this Notice. These maximum rates are to ensure equitable disbursement of Federal funds to school food authorities.

Performance-based Reimbursement—In addition to the funding mentioned above, school food authorities 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 (an additional nine cents per lunch available beginning July 1, 2024, and adjusted annually thereafter).

Afterschool Snack Payments in Afterschool Care Programs—Section 17A of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766a) establishes National Average Payments for free, reduced price and paid afterschool snacks as part of the National School Lunch Program.

Breakfast Payment Factors—Section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773) establishes National Average Payment Factors for free, reduced price, and paid breakfasts served under the School Breakfast Program and additional payments for free and reduced-price breakfasts served in schools determined to be in “severe need” because they serve a high percentage of free and reduced eligible children.

Adjusted Payments

The following specific section 4, section 11, and section 17A National Average Payment Factors and maximum reimbursement rates for lunch, the afterschool snack rates, and the breakfast rates are in effect from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. Due to a higher cost of living, the average payments and maximum reimbursements for Alaska, Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands are higher than those for all other States. The District of Columbia uses figures specified for the contiguous States. These rates do not include the value of USDA Foods or cash-in-lieu of USDA Foods which schools receive as additional assistance for each meal served to participants under the Program. A notice announcing the value of USDA Foods and cash-in-lieu of USDA Foods is published separately in the **Federal Register**.

Adjustments to the national average payment rates for all lunches served under the National School Lunch Program, breakfasts served under the School Breakfast Program, and afterschool snacks served under the National School Lunch Program are rounded down to the nearest whole cent.

Special Milk Program Payments

For the period July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, the rate of reimbursement for a half pint of milk served to a non-needy child in a school or institution that participates in the Special Milk Program is 27.00 cents. This change is based on the 2.91 percent increase in the Producer Price Index for Fluid Milk Products from May 2023 to May 2024.

As a reminder, schools or institutions with pricing programs that elect to serve milk free to eligible children continue to receive the average cost of a half pint of milk (the total cost of all milk purchased during the claim period divided by the total number of purchased half pints) for each half pint served to an eligible child.

National School Lunch Program Payments

Overall, payments for the National School Lunch Program and the Afterschool Snack Program increased due to a 4.03 percent increase in the national average payment rates for schools and residential child care institutions for the period July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025 in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for the Food Away From Home series during the 12-month period May 2023 to May 2024 (from a level of 352.892 in May 2023, as previously published in the **Federal Register** to 367.099 in May 2024).

These changes are reflected below.

Section 4 National Average Payment Factors—In school food authorities that served less than 60 percent free and reduced-price lunches in School Year (SY) 2022–2023, the payments for meals served are: *Contiguous States*—paid rate—42 cents (2 cents increase from the 2023–2024 rate), free and reduced price rate—42 cents (2 cents increase), maximum rate—50 cents (2 cents increase); *Alaska*—paid rate—69 cents (3 cents increase), free and reduced price rate—69 cents (3 cents increase), maximum rate—79 cents (3 cents increase); *Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands*—paid rate—55 cents (2 cents increase), free and reduced price rate—55 cents (2 cents increase), maximum rate—64 cents (3 cents increase).

In school food authorities that served 60 percent or more free and reduced price lunches in School Year 2022–2023, payments are: *Contiguous States*—paid rate—44 cents (2 cents increase), free and reduced price rate—44 cents (2 cents increase), maximum rate—50 cents (2 cents increase); *Alaska*—paid rate—71 cents (3 cents increase), free and reduced price rate—

71 cents (3 cents increase), maximum rate—79 cents (3 cents increase); *Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands*—paid rate—57 cents (2 cents increase), free and reduced price rate—57 cents (2 cents increase), maximum rate—64 cents (3 cents increase).

School food authorities certified to receive the performance-based cash assistance will receive an additional 9 cents (adjusted annually) added to the above amounts as part of their section 4 payments.

Section 11 National Average Payment Factors—Contiguous States—free lunch—4 dollars and 1 cent (16 cents increase from the SY 2023–2024 rate), reduced price lunch—3 dollars and 61 cents (16 cents increase); *Alaska*—free lunch—6 dollars and 49 cents (25 cents increase), reduced price lunch—6 dollars and 9 cents (25 cents increase); *Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands*—free lunch—5 dollars and 21 cent (20 cents increase), reduced price lunch—4 dollars and 81 cents (20 cents increase).

Afterschool Snacks in Afterschool Care Programs—The payments are: *Contiguous States*—free snack—1 dollar and 21 cents (4 cents increase from the SY 2023–2024), reduced price snack—60 cents (2 cents increase), paid snack—11 cents (1 cent increase); *Alaska*—free snack—1 dollar and 97 cents (8 cent increase), reduced price snack—98 cents (4 cents increase), paid snack—18 cents (1 cent increase); *Guam, Hawaii, Puerto*

Rico and Virgin Islands—free snack—1 dollar and 58 cents (6 cents increase), reduced price snack—79 cents (3 cents increase), paid snack—14 cents (1 cent increase).

School Breakfast Program Payments

Overall, payments for the National School Breakfast Program increased due to a 4.03 percent increase in the national average payment rates for schools and residential child care institutions for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers in the Food Away from Home series during the 12-month period May 2023 to May 2024 (from a level of 352.892 in May 2023, as previously published in the **Federal Register** to 367.099 in May 2024).

These changes are reflected below.

For schools “not in severe need” the payments are: *Contiguous States*—free breakfast—2 dollars and 37 cents (9 cents increase from the SY 2023–2024 rate), reduced price breakfast—2 dollars and 7 cents (9 cents increase), paid breakfast—39 cents (1 cent increase); *Alaska* free breakfast—3 dollars and 80 cents (14 cents increase), reduced price breakfast—3 dollars and 50 cents (14 cents increase), paid breakfast—60 cents (2 cents increase); *Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands*—free breakfast—3 dollars and 6 cents (11 cents increase), reduced price breakfast—2 dollars and 76 cents (11 cents increase), paid breakfast—49 cents (2 cents increase).

For schools in “severe need” the payments are: *Contiguous States*—free breakfast—2 dollars and 84 cents (11 cents increase from the SY 2023–2024), reduced price breakfast—2 dollars and 54 cents (11 cents increase), paid breakfast—39 cents (1 cent increase); *Alaska*—free breakfast—4 dollars and 56 cents (17 cents increase), reduced price breakfast—4 dollars and 26 cents (17 cents increase), paid breakfast—60 cents (2 cents increase); *Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands*—free breakfast—3 dollars and 67 cents (14 cents increase), reduced price breakfast—3 dollars and 37 cents (14 cents increase), paid breakfast—49 cents (2 cents increase).

Payment Chart

The following chart illustrates the lunch National Average Payment Factors with the sections 4 and 11 already combined to indicate the per lunch amount; the maximum lunch reimbursement rates; the reimbursement rates for afterschool snacks served in afterschool care programs; the breakfast National Average Payment Factors including severe need schools; and the milk reimbursement rate. All amounts are expressed in dollars or fractions thereof. The payment factors and reimbursement rates used for the District of Columbia are those specified for the contiguous States.

BILLING CODE 3410–30–P

SCHOOL PROGRAMS							
MEAL, SNACK AND MILK PAYMENTS TO STATES AND SCHOOL FOOD AUTHORITIES							
<i>Expressed in Dollars or Fractions Thereof</i>							
Effective from: July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025							
NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM¹		LESS THAN 60%	LESS THAN 60% + 9 cents²	60% OR MORE	60% or MORE + 9 cents²	MAXIMUM RATE	MAXIMUM RATE + 9 cents²
CONTIGUOUS STATES	PAID	0.42	0.51	0.44	0.53	0.50	0.59
	REDUCED PRICE	4.03	4.12	4.05	4.14	4.20	4.29
	FREE	4.43	4.52	4.45	4.54	4.60	4.69
ALASKA	PAID	0.69	0.78	0.71	0.80	0.79	0.88
	REDUCED PRICE	6.78	6.87	6.80	6.89	7.03	7.12
	FREE	7.18	7.27	7.20	7.29	7.43	7.52
GUAM, HAWAII, PUERTO RICO and VIRGIN ISLANDS	PAID	0.55	0.64	0.57	0.66	0.64	0.73
	REDUCED PRICE	5.36	5.45	5.38	5.47	5.57	5.66
	FREE	5.76	5.85	5.78	5.87	5.97	6.06
SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM				NON-SEVERE NEED		SEVERE NEED	
CONTIGUOUS STATES	PAID			0.39		0.39	
	REDUCED PRICE			2.07		2.54	
	FREE			2.37		2.84	
ALASKA	PAID			0.60		0.60	
	REDUCED PRICE			3.50		4.26	
	FREE			3.80		4.56	
GUAM, HAWAII, PUERTO RICO and VIRGIN ISLANDS	PAID			0.49		0.49	
	REDUCED PRICE			2.76		3.37	
	FREE			3.06		3.67	
SPECIAL MILK PROGRAM				ALL MILK	PAID MILK	FREE MILK	
PRICING PROGRAMS WITHOUT FREE OPTION				0.2700	N/A	N/A	
PRICING PROGRAMS WITH FREE OPTION				N/A	0.2700	Average Cost Per 1/2 Pint of Milk	
NONPRICING PROGRAMS				0.2700	N/A	N/A	
AFTERSCHOOL SNACKS SERVED IN AFTERSCHOOL CARE PROGRAMS							
CONTIGUOUS STATES	PAID					0.11	
	REDUCED PRICE					0.60	
	FREE					1.21	
ALASKA	PAID					0.18	
	REDUCED PRICE					0.98	
	FREE					1.97	
GUAM, HAWAII, PUERTO RICO and VIRGIN ISLANDS	PAID					0.14	
	REDUCED PRICE					0.79	
	FREE					1.58	

¹ Payment listed for Free and Reduced Price Lunches include both section 4 and section 11 funds

² Performance-based cash reimbursement (adjusted annually for inflation)

This action is not a rule as defined by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C.

601–612) and thus is exempt from the provisions of that Act. This notice has

been determined to be exempt under Executive Order 12866.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507), no new recordkeeping or reporting requirements have been included that are subject to approval from the Office of Management and Budget.

National School Lunch, School Breakfast, and Special Milk Programs are listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.555, No. 10.553, and No. 10.556, respectively, and are subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials (See 2 CFR 415.3–415.6).

Authority: Sections 4, 8, 11, and 17A of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, as amended, (42 U.S.C. 1753, 1757, 1759a, 1766a) and sections 3 and 4(b) of the Child Nutrition Act, as amended, (42 U.S.C. 1772 and 42 U.S.C. 1773(b)).

Cynthia Long,

Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

[FR Doc. 2024–15175 Filed 7–9–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–30–C

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Child and Adult Care Food Program: National Average Payment Rates, Day Care Home Food Service Payment Rates, and Administrative Reimbursement Rates for Sponsoring Organizations of Day Care Homes for the Period July 1, 2024 Through June 30, 2025

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the annual adjustments to the national average payment rates for meals and snacks served in child care centers, outside-school-hours care centers, at-risk afterschool care centers, and adult day care centers; the food service payment rates for meals and snacks served in day care homes; and the administrative reimbursement rates for sponsoring organizations of day care homes, to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index. Further adjustments are made to these rates to reflect the higher costs of providing meals in Alaska, Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands. The adjustments contained in this notice are made on an annual basis each July, as required by the laws and regulations governing the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

DATES: These rates are in effect from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Penny Burke, Branch Chief, Program Monitoring and Operational Support Division, Child Nutrition Programs, FNS USDA, 1320 Braddock Place, Suite 401, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, 303–844–0357.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Pursuant to sections 4, 11, and 17 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1753, 1759a and 1766), section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773) and 7 CFR 226.4, 226.12 and 226.13 of the Program regulations, notice is hereby given of the new payment rates for institutions participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program. As provided for under the law, all rates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program must be revised annually, on July 1, to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor, for the most recent 12-month period. These rates are in effect during the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

Adjusted Payments

The following national average payment factors and food service payment rates for meals and snacks are in effect from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. All amounts are expressed in dollars or fractions thereof. Due to a higher cost of living, the reimbursements for Alaska, Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands are higher than those for all other States. The District of Columbia uses the figures specified for the contiguous States. These rates do not include the value of USDA Foods or cash-in-lieu of USDA Foods, which institutions receive as additional assistance for each lunch or supper served to participants under the Program. A notice announcing the value of USDA Foods and cash-in-lieu of USDA Foods is published separately in the **Federal Register**.

Adjustments to the national average payment rates for all meals served under the Child and Adult Care Food Program are rounded down to the nearest whole cent.

National Average Payment Rates for Centers

The changes in the national average payment rates for centers reflect a 4.03 percent increase during the 12-month period from May 2023 to May 2024 (from 352.892 in May 2023, as

previously published in the **Federal Register**, to 367.099 in May 2024) in the Food Away From Home series of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers.

Payments for breakfasts served are: *Contiguous States*—paid rate—39 cents (1 cent increase from the 2023–2024 rate), reduced price rate—2 dollar and 7 cents (9 cents increase), free rate—2 dollars and 37 cents (9 cents increase); *Alaska*—paid rate—60 cents (2 cents increase), reduced price rate—3 dollars and 50 cents (14 cents increase), free rate—3 dollars and 80 cents (14 cents increase); *Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands*—paid rate—49 cents (2 cents increase), reduced price rate—2 dollars and 76 cents (11 cents increase), free rate—3 dollars and 6 cents (11 cents increase).

Payments for lunch or supper served are: *Contiguous States*—paid rate—42 cents (2 cents increase), reduced price rate—4 dollars and 3 cents (18 cents increase), free rate—4 dollars and 43 cents (18 cents increase); *Alaska*—paid rate—69 cents (3 cents increase), reduced price rate—6 dollars and 78 cents (28 cents increase), free rate—7 dollars and 18 cents (28 cents increase); *Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands*—paid rate—55 cents (2 cents increase), reduced price rate—5 dollars and 36 cents (22 cents increase), free rate—5 dollars and 76 cents (22 cents increase).

Payments for snack served are: *Contiguous States*—paid rate—11 cents (1 cents increase), reduced price rate—60 cents (2 cents increase), free rate—1 dollar and 21 cents (4 cents increase); *Alaska*—paid rate—18 cents (1 cent increase), reduced price rate—98 cents (4 cent increase), free rate—1 dollar and 97 cents (8 cents increase); *Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands*—paid rate—14 cents (1 cents increase), reduced price rate—79 cents (3 cents increase), free rate—1 dollar and 58 cents (6 cents increase).

Food Service Payment Rates for Day Care Homes

The changes in the food service payment rates for day care homes reflect a 1.04 percent increase during the 12-month period from May 2023 to May 2024 (from 302.535 in May 2023, as previously published in the **Federal Register**, to 305.679 in May 2024) in the Food At Home series of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers.

Payments for breakfast served are: *Contiguous States*—Tier I—1 dollar and 66 cents (1 cent increase from the 2023–2024 rate) and Tier II—60 cents (1 cents increase); *Alaska*—Tier I—2 dollars and 66 cents (3 cents increase) and Tier II—