

# Adult Meal Pricing

## School Nutrition



### Paid Adult Meals

Adult meal prices are set a local level and must be reviewed annually to ensure they are **set high enough to cover all costs for producing the meal**. Student payments, federal or state reimbursements, or other program revenues cannot be used to subsidize meals served to adults. Use the guidance below to determine if adult meal prices are compliant. If prices are not sufficient to cover all costs, an immediate price increase or transfer of nonfederal funds (general fund transfer) will be needed to cover price shortfalls.

### School Food Service Employees:

Meals served to cafeteria employees, directly involved in the operation and administration of the breakfast and lunch programs (e.g., managers, cooks, servers, etc.), may be served at no charge and considered as a fringe benefit. It is at the discretion of the local school district to charge food service employees for their meal or cover the cost using program funds.

### Other School District Employees and Adult Visitor Meals:

The benefits of the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs are provided for meals served to students only. Federal or state reimbursement and USDA foods received by schools are based on the number of lunches served to students, and no reimbursement or USDA foods are provided for meals served to adults. If meals are included to district staff members, as a fringe benefit or as part of the salary arrangement, the school district must provide a general fund transfer to cover this expense. All adult meals must be tracked and documentation kept for audits. The adult portion size should be the same as a student portion; if portion size is increased for adults, the price should be adjusted accordingly to cover all costs.

### WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

- [USDA Adult Meal Pricing Guidance](#)
- Visit the School Nutrition [Financial](#) webpage
  - [Nonprogram Revenue](#)
  - Adult Meal Price Check