

Meal Pricing for Adults

Since the expressed purpose of federal assistance is to safeguard the health and well-being of the nation's students, meals served to adults are not eligible for federal cash reimbursement—therefore, the reimbursement that the Contracting Entity (CE-- AKA, school district) receives for serving students must not be used to pay for adult meals.

CEs must also ensure that federal reimbursements, students' payments, and other non-designated nutrition program revenues do not subsidize meals served to nonprogram employees—teachers, administrators, custodians, or other adults.

Price of Adult Meals

The charge for adult meals must, at a minimum, be greater than the amount of total reimbursement received for a free meal plus any other supplemental payments received by the CE plus per-meal value of USDA Foods (Commodities) used for the meal service. The meal price for adult visitors may be higher than the price paid by adult CE employees at the discretion of CE officials.

Total reimbursement includes the following:

- Standard Reimbursement—Amount of reimbursement the CE receives for free, reduced-priced, or paid reimbursable meals.
- Performance-Based Reimbursement—Additional reimbursement is applied to each reimbursable lunch claimed. Current performance-based reimbursement rates are posted at www.SquareMeals.org.
- Severe Need Reimbursement—Additional reimbursement based on high economic need.
- USDA Foods Per Meal Value (Reimbursement)—CE-wide allocation that is based on the number of reimbursable lunches served in the previous year.