

# NAVARRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Subject:** **Review and approval of proposed student paid meal prices for 2026-27**

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**Date:** July 20, 2026

**Administrator Responsible/Position:** Paul Neuhoff, Carlette Drabek

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**A. Purpose of Agenda Item:**

☐ Information Only

☒ Action Needed

☐ Receive Input

**B. Authority for This Action:**

☐ Local Policy

☒ Law or Rule

☐ N/A

**C. Priority, Goal, or Need Addressed:**

☐ Strategic Plan

☐ District/Campus  
Improvement  
Plan

☒ Other

**Priorities**

☐ **Priority 1:** Recruiting, Hiring, Coaching, and Retaining High Quality Teachers and Staff to Support Student Outcomes.

☐ **Priority 2:** Maximizing Academic Performance.

☐ **Priority 3:** Maximizing Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Opportunities, Performance, and Engagement.

☒ **Priority 4:** Planning, Preparing, and Maintaining Facilities and Environments for Learning.

☐ **Priority 5:** Obtaining and Maintaining Top Rated District Recognition

**Board Goals for 2023-2028**

☐ **Goal 1\*:** The percent of 3rd grade students that score meets grade level or above on STAAR Reading will increase from 49% to 60% by June 2024, 65% for 2024-2025, 70% for 2025-2026, 75% for 2026-2027, 80% for 2027-2028. **(HB3 Required Goal)**

☐ **Goal 2\*:** Increased overall student performance in mathematics to 85% Meets Standard by 2028. The percent of 3rd grade students that score meets grade level or above on STAAR Math will increase from 53% to 65% by June 2024, 70% for 2024-2025, 75% for 2025-2026, 80% for 2026-2027, 85% for 2027-2028. **(HB3 Required Goal)**

☐ **Goal 3\*:** The percentage of graduates that meet the criteria for CCMR will increase from 72% to 88% by August 2024 and increase to 95% by 2028. **(HB3 Required Goal)**

**D.**

**Summary:** **The United States Department of Agriculture, in Section 205 of the Health, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, requires school food authorities participating in the National School Lunch Program to review and adjust lunch prices for paid students annually.**

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**Background** **The USDA has implemented a requirement for the costs of meals to be**

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**Information:** more in line with the Federal reimbursement rates by calculating the number of paid lunches served as compared to an average of all District lunch prices. This is called the "Weighted Average Price". Districts who on a weighted average charged less than the target weighted average price for paid lunches are required to make an adjustment to their weighted average paid lunch price. Increasing the price by \$0.10 on each campus increases the 2026-2027 Weighted Average Price for NISD is \$3.50 and maintains compliance with USDA requirements.

**2026-2027 Weighted Average Lunch Price Requirement**

| Campus      | Monthly # of Paid Lunches | 25-26 Price | Proposed 26-27 Price | Projected Mthly Rev. |
|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| High School | 4,229                     | \$3.65      | \$3.75               | \$15,858.75          |
| Jr. High    | 4,241                     | \$3.40      | \$3.50               | \$14,843.50          |
| Inter/Elm   | 7,352                     | \$3.25      | \$3.35               | \$24,629.20          |
| Total       | 15,822                    |             |                      | \$55,331.45          |

**Five Year Lunch Meal Paid Price Comparison**

| School Year | Elementary       | Intermediate     | Jr. High         | High School      |
|-------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 2021-2022   | Feed Free Waiver | Feed Free Waiver | Feed Free Waiver | Feed Free Waiver |
| 2022-2023   | \$2.95           | \$2.95           | \$3.10           | \$3.35           |
| 2023-2024   | \$3.10           | \$3.10           | \$3.25           | \$3.25           |
| 2024-2025   | \$3.20           | \$3.20           | \$3.35           | \$3.60           |
| 2025-2026   | \$3.25           | \$3.25           | \$3.40           | \$3.65           |

Due to the current food costs, produce costs, fuel prices, etc. and the ongoing meal requirements imposed by USDA, it is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the meal price increase of \$.10 per campus.

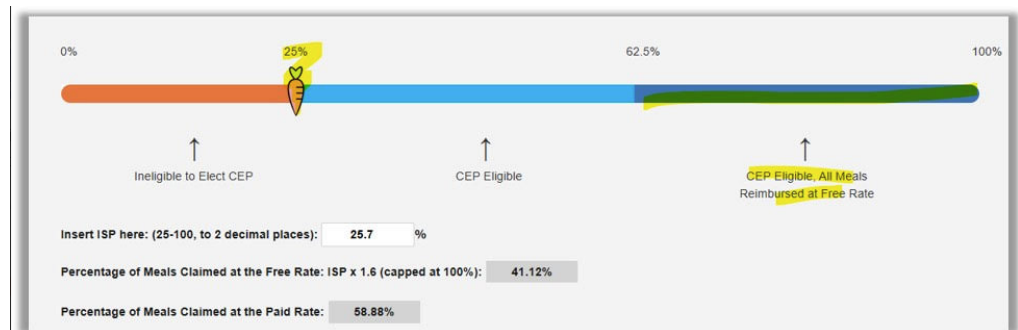
The district cannot offer district-wide free meals like our neighboring community. While Navarro ISD proudly serves three Title 1 campuses, it does not currently qualify as a Title 1 *district or have the overall low socio economic population required to qualify for universal free meal funding*. Universal free meals were temporarily available during the COVID-19

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**pandemic through emergency federal provisions, but those federal flexibilities expired in 2022.**

**Some districts utilize the federal Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) to provide free meals to all students, but this requires a high Identified Student Percentage (ISP)—the proportion of students automatically qualifying for free meals through programs like SNAP or TANF. According to data from the USDA’s CEP Slider Tool, districts that implement CEP successfully and sustainably typically have an ISP of 62.5% or higher, which guarantees full federal reimbursement at the free rate.**



**Navarro ISD’s ISP sits at approximately 25.70%. At this level, only about 40% of meals would be reimbursed at the free rate, leaving a large funding gap. Under Section 5 of the Texas Department of Agriculture’s Administrator’s Reference Manual (ARM), any financial shortfall incurred under CEP cannot be covered by federal funds; it must be fully offset by local non-federal sources, such as the district’s general fund, and reconciled to a zero balance annually. Because CEP eliminates the ability to collect normal meal payments from families who do not qualify for assistance, electing this program would place an unsustainable multi-year strain on local resources. Currently, no district in the region with an ISP similar to Navarro ISD utilizes CEP due to these severe fiscal risks.**

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**E. Comments Received:**

☐ LT

☐ DEIC

☒ Other

All agenda items are reviewed by the Superintendent's Leadership Team.

**F.**

**Administrative  
Recommendation:**

**That the Board approve the proposed student  
paid meal prices as shown.**

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**G. Fiscal Impact and Cost: Increase revenue by \$ 15,822/year**

**Amount:** N/A

☒ Budget

☐ Grant/Special  
Funds

☐ Other

☐ Bond

**H. Exhibits: None**

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**I. Action: "I move to approve/disapprove/postpone" the proposed student paid meal prices as shown.**

Motion by: \_\_\_\_\_

Second by: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR: J. Frederick, D. Gilliam, L. Gosch, D. Reinhard, M. Sartain, C. Scheib, B. Stephenson

AGAINST: J. Frederick, D. Gilliam, L. Gosch, D. Reinhard, M. Sartain, C. Scheib, B. Stephenson

ABSTAIN: J. Frederick, D. Gilliam, L. Gosch, D. Reinhard, M. Sartain, C. Scheib, B. Stephenson

MOTION CARRIED/DENIED/POSTPONED