



D.C. Everest Area School District

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Laticia Baudhuin, RD
Director of School Nutrition

MISSION STATEMENT

D.C. Everest Area School District, in partnership with the community, is committed to being an innovative educational leader in developing knowledgeable, productive, caring, creative, responsible individuals prepared to meet the challenges of an ever-changing global society.

Memorandum

To: Kelley Strike, Assistant Superintendent of Operations

From: Laticia Baudhuin, Director of School Nutrition

Date: 5/15/2026

Re: School Meal Prices

I am proposing the following meal prices for 2026-27. As a comparison, I've included the current year's meal prices.

2025-26

Proposed Changes 2026-27

	Breakfast	Lunch		Breakfast	Lunch
Elementary	\$1.60	\$2.25	Elementary	\$1.70	\$2.50
Middle School	\$1.60	\$2.45	Middle School	\$1.70	\$2.75
Junior High/Idea School	\$1.60	\$2.50	Junior High/Idea School	\$1.75	\$2.80
Senior High	\$1.65	\$2.65	Senior High	\$1.80	\$2.95
Reduced	Free	\$0.40	Reduced	Free	\$0.40
Adult	\$3.05	\$5.35	<i>Adult</i>	<i>\$3.40</i>	<i>\$5.95</i>
Milk	\$0.50	\$0.50	Milk	No Change	No Change

Proposed Meal Price Increases

To support the continued success of our school nutrition program and maintain a balanced budget, I am recommending another increase in meal prices for the 2025–26 school year:

- **Breakfast:** \$0.10 increase for paid-status elementary and Middle School students and \$0.15 increase for paid-status Junior and Senior High students.
- **Lunch:** Approximately 11% increase for paid-status student lunches *and all adult meals* (rounded up to the nearest \$0.05)

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) recommends an annual increase of at least \$0.10 for lunch prices to keep pace with rising costs, and we are still in the process of level-setting the price of meals to make up for the years that prices weren't raised. Our current student lunch price remains the lowest among the 64 districts in our cooperative—between \$0.69 and \$0.76 below the mean. Similarly, our breakfast prices are still \$0.23 to \$0.34 below the average.

Over the past five years, the cost of operating our program has risen significantly. Just from our prime food vendor alone, we are expecting a per case fixed fee increase from \$3.07 to \$3.50 next year. This is the largest fee increase we've ever seen. This alone will constitute an extra \$7,000, and that is not even including the price increases from food manufacturers and other vendors.

As it stands right now, the budget deficit in Fund 50 will be about \$114,000, and that is if we continue with the proposed meal price increases. We take pride in our efforts to do more with less in order to keep meals affordable for DCE families. However, this adjustment is necessary to ensure the long-term sustainability of the program and to prevent a Fund 10 transfer to Fund 50.