BOE Agenda Item Executive Summary
February 8, 2021

Topic: Adult Meal Price Increase under Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Operation

Background Information: An increase in the lunch price for adults is recommended to comply with United States Department of Agriculture and Kansas State Department of Education Child Nutrition and Wellness requirements.

The adult meal charge must be at least the amount of reimbursement received for a free meal plus the value of cash-in-lieu of commodities. When the adult meal charge is less than the free reimbursement rate, the district must provide income from sources outside the Food Service Fund to pay the difference between the free reimbursement rate and the adult meal charge.

The United States Department of Agriculture released new Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) reimbursement rates on December 31, 2020.

Although the Board of Education approved an adult meal price increase in June 2020, this approval was based upon operating under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and National School Breakfast Program (NSBP).

On August 31 and again on October 9, 2020, the United States Department of Agriculture authorized the extension of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), whereby all children ages 1-18 are allowed to eat meals at no charge. These waivers support access to nutritious meals, while minimizing potential exposure to the novel coronavirus (COVID–19). Due to the continued need for social distancing, many states and School Food Authorities are utilizing a virtual or hybrid education model.

Note that the NSLP and NSBP fiscal years run from July 1st through June 30th, whereby the SFSP fiscal year runs from January 1st through December 31st.

In addition, the free reimbursement rate for the SFSP is $4.3325 for lunch and $2.4775 for breakfast (per meal), whereas the free rates for the NSLP and NSBP are $3.845 and $2.26, respectively.

Furthermore, the method by which adult meal prices are calculated for the NSLP and NSBP (the price charged to students paying the school's paid price, plus the reimbursement for a paid student meal), is different from the method required to be utilized for the SFSP, as described previously.

The increase in the SFSP reimbursement rates are based upon the change 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 United States Department of Labor. This represents a 3.8 percent increase for the 12-month period, from November 2019 through November 2020. Given this, school meal programs may also expect to see higher NSLP and NSBP reimbursement rates for the 2021-22 school year.