

The changes in the national average payment rates for centers reflect a 2.25 percent increase during the 12-month period, May 1999 to May 2000, (from 164.6 in May 1999 to 168.3 in May 2000) in the food away from home series of the CPI for All Urban Consumers.

The changes in the food service payment rates for day care homes reflect a 2.19 percent increase during the 12-month period, May 1999 to May 2000, (from 163.9 in May 1999 to 167.5 in May 2000) in the food at home series of the CPI for All Urban Consumers.

The changes in the administrative reimbursement rates for sponsoring organizations of day care homes reflect a 3.07 percent increase during the 12-month period, May 1999 to May 2000, (from 166.2 in May 1999 to 171.3 in May 2000) in the series for all items of the CPI for All Urban Consumers, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.

The total amount of payments available to each State agency for distribution to institutions participating in the program is based on the rates contained in this notice.

This action is not a rule as defined by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601-612) and thus is exempt from the provisions of that Act. This notice has been determined to be exempt under Executive Order 12866.

This program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.558 and is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372,

which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. (See 7 CFR part 3015, subpart V, and final rule related notice published at 48 FR 29114, June 24, 1983.)

This notice imposes no new reporting or recordkeeping provisions that are subject to Office of Management and Budget review in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3518).

**Authority:** Sections 4(b)(2), 11a, 17(c) and 17(f)(3)(B) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1753(b)(2), 1759a, 1766(f)(3)(B)) and section 4(b)(1)(B) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended 42 U.S.C. 1773(b)(1)(B).

Dated: June 21, 2000.

**Samuel Chambers, Jr.,**

*Administrator.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Food and Nutrition Service

#### **National School Lunch, Special Milk, and School Breakfast Programs; National Average Payments/Maximum Reimbursement Rates**

**AGENCY:** Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This Notice announces the annual adjustments to: (1) The "national

average payments," the amount of money the Federal Government provides States for lunches, afterschool snacks and breakfasts served to children participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs; (2) the "maximum reimbursement rates," the maximum per lunch rate from Federal funds that a State can provide a school food authority for lunches served to children participating in the National School Lunch Program; and (3) the rate of reimbursement for a half-pint of milk served to nonneedy children in a school or institution which participates in the Special Milk Program for Children. The payments and rates are prescribed on an annual basis each July. The annual payments and rates adjustments for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs reflect changes in the Food Away From Home series of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers. The annual rate adjustment for the Special Milk Program reflects changes in the Producer Price Index for Fluid Milk Products. These payments and rates are in effect from July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Mary Jane Whitney, Section Chief, School Programs Section, Policy and Program Development Branch, Child Nutrition Division, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 1007, Alexandria, VA 22302 or phone (703) 305-2620.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Background***Special Milk Program for Children*

Pursuant to section 3 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1772), the Department announces the rate of reimbursement for a half-pint of milk served to nonneedy children in a school or institution which participates in the Special Milk Program for Children. This rate is adjusted annually to reflect changes in the Producer Price Index for Fresh Processed Milk, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.

For the period July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001, the rate of reimbursement for a half-pint of milk served to a nonneedy child in a school or institution which participates in the Special Milk Program is 13 cents. This reflects an increase of 2.0 percent in the Producer Price Index for Fresh Processed Milk from May 1999 to May 2000 (from a level of 139.7 in May 1999 to 142.5 in May 2000).

As a reminder, schools or institutions with pricing programs which elect to serve milk free to eligible children continue to receive the average cost of a half-pint of milk (the total cost of all milk purchased during the claim period divided by the total number of purchased half-pints) for each half-pint served to an eligible child.

*National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs*

Pursuant to sections 11 and 17A of the National School Lunch Act, (42 U.S.C. 1759a and 1766a), and section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, (42 U.S.C. 1773), the Department annually announces the adjustments to the National Average Payment Factors and to the maximum Federal reimbursement rates for lunches and afterschool snacks served to children participating in the National School Lunch Program and breakfasts served to children participating in the School Breakfast Program. Adjustments are prescribed each July 1, based on changes 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 Department of Labor. The changes in the national average payment rates for schools and residential child care institutions for the period July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001 reflect a 2.25 percent increase in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers during the 12-month period May 1999 to May 2000 (from a level of 164.6 in May 1999 to 168.3 in May 2000). Adjustments to the national

average payment rates for all lunches served under the National School Lunch Program, breakfasts served under the School Breakfast Program, and afterschool snacks served under the National School Lunch Program are rounded down to the nearest whole cent.

*Lunch Payment Levels*

Section 4 of the National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. § 1753) provides general cash for food assistance payments to States to assist schools in purchasing food. The National School Lunch Act provides two different section 4 payment levels for lunches served under the National School Lunch Program. The lower payment level applies to lunches served by school food authorities in which less than 60 percent of the lunches served in the school lunch program during the second preceding school year were served free or at a reduced price. The higher payment level applies to lunches served by school food authorities in which 60 percent or more of the lunches served during the second preceding school year were served free or at a reduced price.

To supplement these section 4 payments, section 11 of the National School Lunch Act provides special cash assistance payments to aid schools in providing free and reduced price lunches. The section 11 National Average Payment Factor for each reduced price lunch served is set at 40 cents less than the factor for each free lunch.

As authorized under sections 8 and 11 of the National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1757, 1759a), maximum reimbursement rates for each type of lunch are prescribed by the Department in this notice. These maximum rates are to ensure equitable disbursement of Federal funds to school food authorities.

*Afterschool Snack Payments in Afterschool Care Programs*

Section 17A of the National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766a) establishes National Average Payments for free, reduced price and paid afterschool snacks as part of the National School Lunch Program.

*Breakfast Payment Factors*

Section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. § 1773) establishes National Average Payment Factors for free, reduced price and paid breakfasts served under the School Breakfast Program and additional payments for free and reduced price breakfasts served in schools determined to be in "severe need" because they serve a high percentage of needy children.

**Revised Payments**

The following specific section 4, section 11 and section 17A National Average Payment Factors and maximum reimbursement rates for lunch, the afterschool snack rates, and the breakfast rates are in effect from July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001. Due to a higher cost of living, the average payments and maximum reimbursements for Alaska and Hawaii are higher than those for all other States. The District of Columbia, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Guam use the figures specified for the contiguous States.

**National School Lunch Program Payments***Section 4 National Average Payment Factors*

In school food authorities which served *less than 60 percent* free and reduced price lunches in School Year 1998–99, the payments for meals served are: *Contiguous States*—paid rate—19 cents, free and reduced price rate—19 cents, maximum rate—27 cents; *Alaska*—paid rate—31 cents, free and reduced price rate—31 cents, maximum rate—42 cents; *Hawaii*—paid rate—22 cents, free and reduced price rate—22 cents, maximum rate—31 cents.

In school food authorities which served *60 percent or more* free and reduced price lunches in School Year 1998–99, payments are: *Contiguous States*—paid rate—21 cents, free and reduced price rate—21 cents, maximum rate—27 cents; *Alaska*—paid rate—33 cents, free and reduced price rate—33 cents, maximum rate—42 cents; *Hawaii*—paid rate—24 cents, free and reduced price rate—24 cents, maximum rate—31 cents.

*Section 11 National Average Payment Factors*

*Contiguous States*—free lunch—183 cents, reduced price lunch—143 cents; *Alaska*—free lunch—297 cents, reduced price lunch—257 cents; *Hawaii*—free lunch—215 cents, reduced price lunch—175 cents.

*Afterschool Snacks in Afterschool Care Programs*

The payments are: *Contiguous States*—free snack—55 cents, reduced price snack—27 cents, paid snack—5 cents; *Alaska*—free snack—90 cents, reduced price snack—45 cents, paid snack—8 cents; *Hawaii*—free snack—65 cents, reduced price snack—32 cents, paid snack—5 cents.

**School Breakfast Program Payments**

For schools "not in severe need" the payments are: *Contiguous States*—free

breakfast—112 cents, reduced price breakfast—82 cents, paid breakfast—21 cents; *Alaska*—free breakfast—177 cents, reduced price breakfast—147 cents, paid breakfast—30 cents; *Hawaii*—free breakfast—130 cents, reduced price breakfast—100 cents, paid breakfast—23 cents.

For schools in “severe need” the payments are: *Contiguous States*—free breakfast—133 cents, reduced price breakfast—103 cents, paid breakfast—21

cents; *Alaska*—free breakfast—212 cents, reduced price breakfast—182 cents, paid breakfast—30 cents; *Hawaii*—free breakfast—155 cents, reduced price breakfast—125 cents, paid breakfast—23 cents.

**Payment Chart**

The following chart illustrates: The lunch National Average Payment Factors with the Sections 4 and 11 already combined to indicate the per lunch amount; the maximum lunch

reimbursement rates; the reimbursement rates for afterschool snacks served in afterschool care programs; the breakfast National Average Payment Factors including “severe need” schools; and the milk reimbursement rate. All amounts are expressed in dollars or fractions thereof. The payment factors and reimbursement rates used for the District of Columbia, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Guam are those specified for the contiguous States.

**SCHOOL PROGRAMS—MEAL, SNACK AND MILK PAYMENTS TO STATES AND SCHOOL FOOD AUTHORITIES**

[Expressed in dollars or fractions thereof Effective from July 1, 2000–June 30, 2001]

National School Lunch Program *	Less than 60%	60% or more	Maximum rate
Contiguous States:			
Paid .....	\$ .19	\$ .21	\$ .27
Reduced price .....	1.62	1.64	1.79
Free .....	2.02	2.04	2.19
Alaska:			
Paid .....	.31	.33	.42
Reduced price .....	2.88	2.90	3.13
Free .....	3.28	3.30	3.53
Hawaii			
Paid .....	.22	.24	.31
Reduced price .....	1.97	1.99	2.15
Free .....	2.37	2.39	2.55

\*Payments listed for Free & Reduced Price Lunches include both sections 4 and 11 funds.

School Breakfast Program	Non-severe need	Severe need
Contiguous States:		
Paid .....	\$ .21	\$ .21
Reduced price .....	.82	1.03
Free .....	1.12	1.33
Alaska:		
Paid .....	.30	.30
Reduced price .....	1.47	1.82
Free .....	1.77	2.12
Hawaii		
Paid .....	.23	.23
Reduced price .....	1.00	1.25
Free .....	1.30	1.55

Special Milk Program	All milk	Paid milk	Free milk
Pricing programs without free option .....	\$ .13	N/A	N/A
Pricing programs with free option .....	N/A	\$ .13	( <sup>1</sup> )
Nonpricing programs .....	.13	N/A	N/A

<sup>1</sup> Average cost per 1/2 pint of milk.

**AFTERSCHOOL SNACKS SERVED IN AFTERSCHOOL CARE PROGRAMS**

Contiguous States:	
Paid .....	\$ .05
Reduced price .....	.27
Free .....	.55
Alaska:	
Paid .....	.08
Reduced price .....	.45
Free .....	.90
Hawaii:	
Paid .....	.05
Reduced price .....	.32
Free .....	.65

This action is not a rule as defined by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. §§ 601–612) and thus is exempt from the provisions of that Act.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. § 3507), no new recordkeeping or reporting requirements have been included that are subject to approval from the Office of Management and Budget.

This action is exempted from review by the Office of Management and Budget under Executive Order 12866.

National School Lunch, School Breakfast and Special Milk Programs are listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.555, No. 10.553 and No. 10.556, respectively, and are subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. (See 7 CFR Part 3015, Subpart V, and the final rule related notice published at 48 FR 29114, June 24, 1983.)

**Authority:** Sections 4, 8, 11 and 17A of the National School Lunch Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 1753, 1757, 1759a, 1766a and sections 3 and 4(b) of the Child Nutrition Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 1772 and 42 U.S.C. 1773(b).

Dated: June 21, 2000.

**Samuel Chambers, Jr.,**  
*Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 00–16168 Filed 6–26–00; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Information Collection; Request for Comments; Timber Sale Operating Plans

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service announces its intention to extend a previously approved information collection. The collected information will help the Forest Service facilitate contract administration of timber sales on timber on National Forest System lands. Information will be collected from purchasers of this timber.

**DATES:** Comments must be received in writing on or before August 28, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** All comments should be addressed to Rex Baumbach, Forest Management, Mail Stop 1105, Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090–6090.

Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to (202) 205–1045 or by email to rbaumbach@fs.fed.us.

The public may inspect comments received in the Office of the Director, Forest Management Staff, Forest Service, USDA, Room 3NW, Yates Building, 201 14th Street, SW., Washington, D.C. Callers are urged to call ahead to facilitate entrance into the building.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Rex Baumbach, Timber Sale Contract Administration Specialist, Forest Management, at (202) 205–0855.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a(14)(c)) requires timber sale purchasers to provide the Forest Service with timber sale operating plans on timber sales with contracts that exceed 2 years in length. The timber sale operating plans are collected within 60 days following the award of timber sale contracts and annually, thereafter, until the timber has been harvested. The timber sale contract requires the timber sale purchaser to update the timber sale operating plan annually.

##### Description of Information Collection

The following describes the information collection to be extended:

*Title:* Timber Operating Plans.

*OMB Number:* 0596–0086.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* May 31, 2000.

*Type of Request:* Extension of an information collection previously approved by the Office of Management and Budget.

*Abstract:* The collected information is used by the agency to plan the agency's timber sale contract administration workload and to determine whether a timber sale purchaser's scheduled timber operation has been delayed and is, therefore, eligible for an extension of the contract termination date. The collected information also is used to facilitate the administration of a timber sale contract.

Timber sale purchasers provide information that includes planned periods of major activity, how the activity will be conducted, and any anticipated road construction. The timber sale purchaser also outlines time frames and methods of accomplishing road construction, timber harvesting, and other contract requirements.

There is no prescribed format for the collection of this information. Timber sale purchasers may submit the required information in the form of a chart or

letter using surface mail, electronic mail, or via facsimile. The information is based on the timber sale purchaser's business plan.

Respondents are National Forest System timber sale purchasers who prepare a chart or letter within 60 days of a timber sale contract award and annually thereafter, until the contract has been completed.

Data gathered in this information collection are not available from other sources.

*Estimate of Annual Burden:* 30 minutes.

*Type of Respondents:* Purchasers of National Forest System timber.

*Estimated Annual Number of Respondents:* 2500.

*Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.5.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 1,875 hours.

#### Comment Is Invited

The agency invites comments on (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the stated purposes and the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical or scientific utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

#### Use of Comments

All comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses when provided, will become a matter of public record. Comments will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval.

Dated: June 15, 2000.

**Paul Brouha,**

*Associate Deputy Chief, NFS.*

[FR Doc. 00–16211 Filed 6–26–00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–11–U**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Eldorado National Forest, CA; Environmental Impact Statement

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA Forest Service.