

DATE: August 4, 2020
TO: Authorized Representative – Special Milk Program
FROM: Barbara Shaw, Coordinator, Food and Nutrition Services Section
SUBJECT: School Year 2020-2021

The reimbursement rates for the Special Milk Program for School Year 2020-2021 are below.

Paid: \$.2025

Free: Average cost per ½ pint

Only schools not participating in the school lunch or breakfast programs and split-session prekindergarten or split-session kindergarten classes that do not have access to school meals are eligible to participate in the Special Milk Program (SMP). If your school elects to offer free milk, an approved policy statement must be on file at the State Agency. Enclosed is the Special Milk Program, Free Milk Option Guidance, which contains the policy statement (Appendix A).

Schools participating in the SMP are limited to serving fluid milk and non-dairy fluid milk substitutes as outlined below.

(a) *Types of fluid milk.* All fluid milk served in the Program must be pasteurized fluid milk, and has vitamins A and D at levels specified by the Food and Drug Administration, and must be consistent with State and Local standards for such milk. Fluid milk must also meet the following requirements:

(1) *Children 1 year old.* Children one year of age must be served unflavored whole milk.

(2) *Children 2 through 5 years old.* Children two through five years old must be served either unflavored low-fat (1 percent) or unflavored fat-free (skim) milk. Flavored milk cannot be served.

(3) *Children 6 years old and older.* Children six years old and older must be served unflavored lowfat (1 percent), unflavored fat-free (skim), or flavored fat-free (skim) milk. An interim final rule (Child Nutrition Flexibilities for Milk, Whole Grains and Sodium Requirements) allows flavored, low-fat (1 percent fat) milk to be offered for school year 2020-2021.

(b) *Fluid milk substitutes.* Non-dairy fluid milk substitutions that provide the nutrients listed in the following table and are fortified in accordance with fortification guidelines issued by the Food and Drug Administration may be provided for non-disabled children who cannot consume fluid milk due to medical or special dietary needs when requested in writing by the child's parent or guardian. A school or day care center need only offer the non-dairy beverage that it has identified as an allowable fluid milk substitute according to the following table.

Nutrient	Per cup (8 fl oz)
Calcium	276 mg.
Protein	8 g.
Vitamin A	500 IU.
Vitamin D	100 IU.
Magnesium	24 mg.
Phosphorus	222 mg.
Potassium	349 mg.
Riboflavin	0.44 mg.
Vitamin B-12	1.1 mcg.

The charge to children per one-half pint should be set at a level so that the charge to the child, plus the reimbursement, does not exceed the dairy cost by more than nine cents. Schools are not required to serve milk free to needy children.

Listed below are some helpful guidelines for counting milk claimed for reimbursement:

1. Milk claimed must be counted at the point of service.
2. **DO NOT** use dairy invoices to determine the number of ½ pints served to children.
3. Count and claim milk that is served to students. Milk served to adults cannot be reimbursed.

The Application Packet for School Year 2020-2021 is now available to renew. All public and nonpublic Local Education Agencies (LEAs) must renew the Application Packet on the Food and Nutrition Services web system before claims can be submitted. Instructions can be found at <http://dese.mo.gov/financial-admin-services/food-nutrition-services>.

Whoever the LEA designated as the Authorized Representative is the only person that can submit the monthly claim for reimbursement. Because claims will be submitted without signatures, there will be a statement on the claims attesting to the accuracy of the information. By having the Authorized Representative submit the claims, they will be attesting that the count of ½ pints is correct.

For questions or concerns, please call 573-751-3526 or email foodandnutritionservices@dese.mo.gov.