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Price of School Lunches to Increase Overseas

Starting August 2016, school lunch prices at all Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) schools outside the continental United States (OCONUS) will increase because of rising operational costs and to comply with federal law.

“Providing meals with whole grains, lean proteins, fresh fruits and vegetables, and low-fat milk not only meets the USDA nutrition standards, but it is vital to the success and academic achievement of the children in our schools,” said NEXCOM Command Master Chief Bobby Anderson. “We have a responsibility to continue to offer these nutritious meals and in order to keep pace with the increasing and operational costs, prices for student meals will increase in this upcoming school year.”

The new increase is \$0.10 per full price for elementary students’ meals, making their new prices \$2.50 and a \$0.20 increase for secondary students, making their meals \$2.75 for the 2016 – 2017 school year. The last price increase was \$0.35 per meal in 2012. Families qualifying for the Free and Reduced Meal Program will not see their meal cost increased. Per federal guidelines, the cost of a reduced-price meal will remain \$.40 per meal.

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (Public Law 111-296) requires DoDEA schools, as participants in the USDA meal program, to raise paid student lunch prices to a level comparable to the rates used for USDA reimbursement. To meet this requirement, prices in the OCONUS schools will be gradually increased over the coming years.

As the designated School Food Authority, the Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM) provides schools meals on a nonprofit, break-even basis, for the DoD School Meal Programs. The SMP meets the same USDA guidelines as CONUS schools by providing meals that have the required nutrients for children.

Visit www.mynavyexchange.com/smp for more information on the School Meal Program.

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