



CHILD NUTRITION SERVICES
College Station Independent School District

Success...each life...each day...each hour

MEMORANDUM

To: Clark Ealy
Deputy Superintendent for Administrative Services

From: Diane Dahm
Director of Child Nutrition Services

Date: March 1, 2012

Re: Meal Price Increase for 2012-13

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, which reauthorized the National School Lunch Program, includes Section 205; Equity in School Lunch Pricing. This provision states:

- *Effective SY beginning July 1, 2011, schools are required to charge students for paid meals at a price that is on average equal to the difference between free meal reimbursement and paid meal reimbursement; Schools that currently charge less are required to gradually increase their prices over time until they meet the requirement; Schools may choose to cover the difference in revenue with non-Federal funds instead of raising paid meal prices.*
- *Establishes a maximum annual increase in the required paid increases of 10 cents annually, but allows schools to establish a higher increase at their discretion.*

As many documents had already been printed for the 2011-12 school year when this ruling came out, CSISD was allowed to wait until 2012-13 to put this law into effect.

The current reimbursement for free lunch is \$2.77 and the reimbursement rate for paid meals is \$.26. This would require our paid price to be on average \$2.50 (rounded down to the nearest 5 cents.) Currently our average price is \$2.15. As the reimbursement rate changes slightly each year, the price for paid students will need to be assessed on a yearly basis. We recommend following the provision that allows us to not increase our price more than 10 cents annually.

The proposed meal prices for 2012-13 school year are:

	BREAKFAST	LUNCH
ELEMENTARY	1.35	2.10
INTERMEDIATE	1.35	2.35
SECONDARY	1.35	2.35
NON-STUDENT	1.75	3.00

This is a \$.10 increase for all student meals. Intermediate and secondary lunch prices are priced higher than elementary meals due to the inefficiency of offering more choices and serving larger portions. Non-student prices are required by USDA to be higher than student meals as we receive no reimbursement for these meals and the cost charged must cover the full expense of the meal.

Student and non-student meal prices were last increased for the 2008-09 school year. Child Nutrition Services' goal is to be self supporting with a break even budget that does not affect the district's general budget