

## **Army & Air Force Exchange Service Public Affairs**

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### **Military Students Overseas to Continue Receiving Free School Meals**

**Facebook-friendly version:** Military children at schools overseas can continue to enjoy reimbursable meals for free after the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) extended a waiver to provide them through June. Read more:

**DALLAS** – The Army & Air Force Exchange Service, in conjunction with the Department of Defense (DoD) and Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA), will continue to serve free meals to all students enrolled at DoDEA schools overseas operated by one of the USDA approved school food authorities (Army & Air Force Exchange Service, Navy Exchange or Marine Corps Community Services).

“The USDA recently extended a waiver to the DoD School Food Authorities to provide free school meals through June 30, 2022,” said Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Osby, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service’s senior enlisted advisor. “This was a tremendous benefit to military families during the last school year, and we’re thrilled that it’s being extended.”

Families can elect to participate and receive free reimbursable meals, subsidized by the USDA, at participating schools. Participants are required to have a DoDEA student ID number and student meal account through the Army & Air Force Exchange Service, Navy Exchange or Marine Corps Community Services. No action is required to receive free school meals for students with an established school meal program account. Parents of students without an account are encouraged to create one at their local Exchange customer service area.

For additional information, including FAQs, parents can visit the school meal program site at <https://www.aafes.com/about-exchange/school-lunch-program/>.

Since 1955, the Exchange has been the school feeding authority for the Army and Air Force. The school meal program is operated for military students overseas, serving more than three million meals a year. Nutritional standards for DoDEA student meals are set by the Exchange’s registered dietitian in accordance with U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines.

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Since 1895, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service (Exchange) has gone where Soldiers, Airmen and their families go to improve the quality of their lives by providing valued goods and services at exclusive military pricing. The Exchange is the 61<sup>st</sup>-largest retailer in the United States. Its earnings provided \$2.1 billion in dividends to support military morale, welfare and recreation programs over the last 10 years. The Exchange is a non-appropriated fund entity of the Department of Defense and is directed by a Board of Directors. The Exchange is a 50th Anniversary Vietnam War Commemorative Partner, planning and conducting events and activities that recognize the service, valor and sacrifice of Vietnam Veterans and their families in

conjunction with the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration. To find out more about the Exchange history and mission or to view recent press releases please visit our website at <http://www.shopmyexchange.com> or follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/ExchangePAO>.

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**Media Notes:**

For more information or to schedule an interview with an Exchange representative please contact Chris Ward, 214-312-3861 or [wardchr@aafes.com](mailto:wardchr@aafes.com).

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