



**Food and Nutrition Services Department  
3661 N. Interstate Park Blvd  
Riviera Beach, FL 33404**

**Proposed School Lunch Price Increase  
For  
Fiscal School Year 2014**

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## Introduction

A provision within the “Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act” that was signed into law on December 13, 2010, requires that school nutrition programs increase the “paid reimbursable” meal price to be equal to the difference between the free meal reimbursement (\$2.88) and the paid meal reimbursement (\$0.29) or \$2.59 ( $\$2.88 - \$0.29 = \$2.59$ ).

## Problem Statement

Currently the price that is being charged for a “paid reimbursable” meal in Palm Beach County Schools is \$1.75 and \$2.00 for Elementary and Secondary respectively. This means that on average the price being charged is \$0.72 less than required by law ( $\$1.75 + \$2.00 = \$3.75 / 2 = \$1.875 - \$2.59 = \$0.72$ ). In doing so Palm Beach County is using federal reimbursement from free and reduced meals to subsidize meals for middle and upper income children. Legislation mandates at a minimum the new average paid lunch price should be increased 2% plus 2.93% SY 2012-2013 inflation rate.

## Additional Information

### School District Price Comparison

Listed below are the paid reimbursable meal prices being charged by the five largest counties in Florida for Fiscal Year 2013. Palm Beach County is well below all other counties.

Lunch Meal	Palm Beach County	Broward County	Dade County	Hillsborough County	Orange County
Elementary	\$1.75	\$2.00	\$2.25	\$2.25	\$1.80
Secondary	\$2.00	\$2.35-\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.75	\$2.50

### Lunch Participation FY2013

Due to the economic climate we have had a large increase in the number of students enrolled in the District that are qualified to receive Free or Reduced meal benefits. As of November 2012, 56.48% of the District’s enrollment were Free or Reduced and 43.52% students were Paid.

However, of the 43.52% Paid students only 21.95% participate in the National School Lunch Program. If a child participates in the program every serving day, an increase of \$0.10 per paid meal would equate to a 5% or \$18 annual increase per child.

### **Implementation Discussion**

It is recommended that Palm Beach County “gradually” increase the “paid reimbursable” meal price over the next several years until it is in line with the current legislation. For school year 2013-2014, the School Food Services Department will present a proposal to the Board requesting authorization to increase reimbursable lunch prices to \$1.85 and \$2.10 for Elementary and Secondary respectively, which would account for the 4.93% mandatory increase for FY2013 and FY2014 ( $\$1.875 * 4.93\% = \$0.0924$  minimum increase).

If approved, the School Food Services Department will provide notification of the price increase through several means to ensure that communication is sufficient and parents and guardians are aware of the new prices starting FY2014. Going forward School Food Services will analyze the National School Lunch Program annually and will make appropriate price increases in order to continue to work towards being in compliance with public law.