

Spangdahlem AB Free and Reduced Price Lunch Program

Dear Parent/Guardian,

All the Department of Defense Dependent Schools (DoDDS) within the Eifel School District offer a healthy lunch every school day for your children. Many studies have demonstrated that healthy meals may positively impact your child's learning. In order to ensure that all children have access to healthy meals offered at the schools, DoDDS, AAFES, and the School Liaison Office offer free or reduced price lunch for qualified families under the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The information below is designed to help you understand the program and to assist you in applying for the free or reduced priced lunch program. If you qualify, reduced priced lunch costs \$.40 and of course free lunches are free. If you qualify for the program, only one USDA reimbursable lunch will be served at the advertised price per student, per meal, per day. With your authorization, additional food items may be purchased at the advertised price, and charged to your child's lunch account.

1. **DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD?** No. Use one Free and Reduced Price School Meal Application for all students in your household. Please ensure that you have completely filled the application form as we cannot approve an incomplete application. Return the completed application to:

*Christine D'Amico, School Liaison Officer
Bldg 151, Room 215
Spangdahlem AB, Germany*

2. **WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICED MEALS?** Your child(ren) may receive free or reduced priced meals if your household's gross household income is within the established Federal Income Eligibility Guideline limits outlined in the below table:

SY 2015-2016 Income Eligibility				
Household Size	Reduced Price Meals		Free Meals	
	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly
2	36,852	3,071	25,896	2,158
3	46,472	3,873	32,656	2,722
4	56,092	4,675	39,416	3,285
5	65,712	5,476	46,176	3,848
6	75,332	6,278	52,936	4,412
7	84,952	7,080	59,696	4,975
8	94,572	7,881	66,456	5,538

3. **MY CHILD(REN)'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT ANOTHER ONE?** Yes. Your child(ren)'s application is only good for that school year and for the first 30 days of the following school year. You must submit a newly completed application for all subsequent school years.
4. **I GET WIC, CAN MY CHILD(REN) GET FREE MEALS?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please complete an application to determine your eligibility to the program.

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5. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes, and we may also ask you to send documentation.
6. IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER? Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for free and reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.
7. WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICER'S DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION? You should talk to the School Liaison Officer regarding your eligibility, or you may also request in writing a formal hearing. The School Liaison Officer can provide you with additional guidance regarding the hearing process.
8. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN? Yes. You or your child(ren) do not have to be U.S. citizens to qualify for free or reduced price meals.
9. WHO SHOULD I INCLUDE AS MEMBERS OF MY HOUSEHOLD? You must include all people living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends) who share income and expenses. You must include yourself and all children living with you. If you live with other people who are economically independent (for example, people who you do not support, who do not share income with you or your children, and who pay a pro-rated share of expenses), do not include them.
10. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME? List the amount that you normally receive prior to deductions taken out. For example, if you normally gross \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only grossed \$900, put down that you made \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
11. MY SPOUSE IS DEPLOYED TO A COMBAT ZONE. IS HER COMBAT PAY COUNTED AS INCOME? No, if the combat pay is received in addition to her basic pay because of her deployment and it wasn't received before she was deployed, combat pay is not counted as income. Contact the School Liaison office for additional guidance.
12. ARE THERE ANY MILITARY BENEFITS **NOT** CONSIDERED AS INCOME? If you reside overseas, currently two military benefits are **NOT** considered as income: overseas housing allowance (OHA) and cost of living allowance (COLA).

Thank you!

Christine D'Amico, 52 MSG/CCL

School Liaison Officer

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