

Naval Air Station Sigonella / Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Program

SY 26/27

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Children need healthy meals to learn. Sigonella School's / NEX School Lunch Program offers a healthy lunch every school day for your children. Many studies have demonstrated that healthy meals may positively impact your child's learning. To ensure that all children have access to healthy meals offered at the schools, DoDDS, NEX, and the School Liaison Office offer free or reduced-price lunch for qualified families under the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Your student may qualify for free or reduced-price meals. A meal application is required to be completed each school year to determine if your students qualify for free or reduced-price meals. Registration for SY 26/27 begins July 1, 2026.

- Do I need to fill out an application for each child?** No. Complete the application to apply for free or reduced-price meals. Use one Free and Reduced-Price School Meals Application for all students in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information.
You can fill out the application at: <https://lingconnect.com>
Click Start New Meal Application.
Choose school district 'DODEA – Navy Exchange (Alexandria, Virginia)' to get started.
- 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 table below:

SY 2026/27 Income Eligibility Guidelines

Household Size	Reduced Price Meals 185%		Free Meals 130%	
	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly
1	36,908	3,076	25,935	2,160
2	50,043	4,171	35,165	2,931
3	63,178	5,265	44,395	3,700
4	76,313	6,360	53,625	4,469
5	89,448	7,454	62,855	5,238
6	102,583	8,549	72,085	6,008
7	115,718	9,644	81,315	6,777
8	128,853	10,738	90,545	7,545

- CAN FOSTER CHILD (REN) GET FREE MEALS?** Yes, foster child (ren) that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court, are eligible for free meals. Any foster child (ren) in the household is/are eligible for free meals regardless of income.
- 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 school days** of the following school year (September 25, 2026)

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5. **HOW DO I GET NOTIFIED IF MY STUDENT(S) QUALIFIED FOR FREE AND REDUCED MEALS?** Once you complete and submit a meal application it should be processed within 10 business days. You will be notified of your students' eligibility by letter. Definitions of eligibility are as follows:
Free: Your student qualifies for free meals and will not be charged for meals during the 26-27 school year.
Reduced: If, your student qualifies for reduced-priced meals they will be charged \$0.30 for breakfast (if available) and \$0.40 for lunch.
Paid: Your student does not qualify for free or reduced-priced meals. Your student will be required to pay for any meal they receive from the student meal program. Breakfast is \$2.25. Lunch (elementary) is \$3.75, and Lunch (Secondary) is \$4.00.
6. **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.
7. **WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED?** Any completed meal application is subject to the USDA required verification process. Applications are randomly chosen for verification, and the households are notified if they have been selected. If selected, income documentation is required to be submitted to verify the information submitted on the meal application is accurate. Depending on the results of the verification process, meal benefits may be increased, decreased, or remain the same. Results are communicated to every household prior to any change in benefits taking effect. Yes, and we may also ask you to send written proof.
8. **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 become unemployed may become eligible for free and reduced-price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.
9. **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 a formal hearing. The School Liaison Officer can provide you with additional guidance regarding the hearing process.
10. **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.
11. **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.
12. **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.
13. **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!

Christopher McKibbin