

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Policy for Preventing and Collecting Household Debt in the Student Meal Program (SMP) Accounts

- DoDEA SMP does not currently have a standardized policy for preventing and collecting SMP debt. The DoDEA Logistics staff is assessing various options to reduce the growing debt and to capture that policy in DoD governance.
 - In school year 2012-2013, DoDEA-Americas, DoDEA-Europe and DoDEA-Pacific accrued \$85,000, \$90,000, and \$127,000 in debt, respectively.
 - Variance in local policy, program execution, and stakeholder cooperation is the significant driver in debt accumulation.
- Current intent is to model in DoDD 1015.5, *Student Meal Program*, the tenets of the existing DoDEA absentee policy that require parental involvement and school staff follow-up to correct ongoing concerns.
 - Applying the same absentee concepts to the student debt policy creates greater interaction between parents and school administration to resolve debt before it becomes onerous to the parents and ensures that student daily nutritional needs are met.
- Example of absentee policy used across DoDEA
 - “In order to comply with the DoDEA Attendance Policy, the GA/AL District has established guidelines for excessive absences and/or tardies. Our first priority is to work in partnership with parents to ensure that our students are attending school. This is important to support student success in school. We have a list of procedures in place to support our families before we are required to notify the Command. These are the steps that we follow:
 1. Notify parents of excessive absenteeism (7 absences or 5 tardies per semester)
 2. Hold a meeting with the parents
 3. Convene a Student Support Team (SST) meeting
 4. Develop an intervention plan
 5. Request support from the military social services
 6. Follow up to see if these interventions are effective
 7. Contact the Command if the interventions are not working using the letter in the handbook
 - Students with excessive unexcused absences and/or tardies will be referred to the SST and then to the Command if the problem is not resolved. A copy of the letter that will be sent to the Command is found below.”
- Attached chart highlights student debt in DoDEA Americas for situational awareness.

Attachment:

Scope of Debt Across DoDEA Americas

Scope of Debt Across DoDEA Americas

Installation	Accounts With Debt	Total Debt (Debt per Enrolled Student)	Accounts Exceeding Value of 20 School Days	Dollar Value of Accounts Exceeding Value of 20 School Days	Percentage of Total Debt From Accounts Exceeding Value of 20 School Days
	Enrollment				
Fort Campbell	877/ 3102	\$ 14,048.00 \$ (4.53)	75	\$6,617	47%
Fort Knox	214/ 1478	\$ 1,987.00 \$ (1.34)	4	\$319	16%
Fort Bragg	799/ 3607	\$ 12,395.00 \$ (3.44)	72	\$6,056	49%
Camp Lejeune	568/ 2429	\$ 10,029.00 \$ (4.13)	50	\$5,425	54%
Fort Jackson	186/ 509	\$ 6,244.00 \$ (12.27)	28	\$4,443	71%
Laurel Bay	168/ 594	\$ 4,222.00 \$ (7.11)	22	\$2,284	56%
Fort Stewart	459/ 1383	\$ 10,315.00 \$ (7.46)	61	\$6,597	64%
Fort Benning	374/ 2044	\$ 4,589.00 \$ (2.24)	17	\$1,339	29%
Fort Rucker	100/ 560	\$ 1,910.00 \$ (3.41)	10	\$1,910	58%
Maxwell AFB	51/ 318	\$ 404.00 \$ (1.27)	0	0	0
Quantico MCB	77/ 863	\$ 247.00 \$ (0.29)	0	0	0
Puerto Rico	424/ 1834	\$ 4,678.00 \$ (2.55)	4	\$298	6%
West Point	58/ 619	\$ 185.59 \$ (0.30)	0	0	0

*Enrollment excludes part day pre-kindergarten