Lunch prices going up 10 cents Nov. 1 due to federal regulations

Humble ISD is increasing lunch prices for students by 10 cents beginning Nov. 1 to remain in compliance with federal regulations.

The new prices will be: Elementary School Lunch $2.10
Secondary School Lunch $2.35

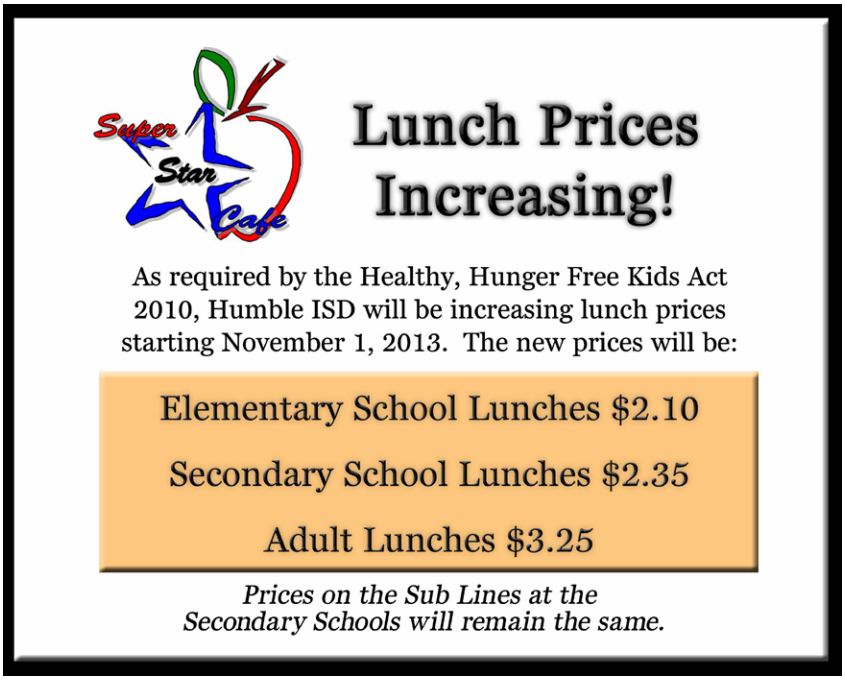
Prices on the sub lines at secondary schools and items bought a la carte, such as individual chicken sandwiches or individual pizzas, remain unchanged.

For adult lunches, prices will be going up 25 cents to the new price of $3.25.

"The Humble ISD Child Nutrition Services Department did not want to raise prices this school year as required by the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010," Robin Young, Humble ISD Director of Child Nutrition Services, said. "The Child Nutrition Department submitted a request to the Texas Department of Agriculture to receive an exemption from raising prices but the exemption was not allowed."

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 included a provision that requires school districts to raise the prices of paid meals if they were charging below approximately $2.65 on average for a paid lunch. The provision was included based upon the idea that federal funding districts receive for school food service should primarily support the cost of meals for students receiving free and reduced priced-meals and not for paid meals. Districts charging less were instructed to raise prices 10 cents per year.

"Humble ISD has been committed to keeping prices as low as possible for all families," Young said. "The district raised prices in 2011 because of the federal requirements; however, prior to that this district had not raised school lunch prices for 12 years."



Humble ISD receives about $7 million dollars each school year in reimbursement from the government for serving meals that meet United States Department of Agriculture and Texas Department of Agriculture requirements. This makes it possible for more than 12,500 Humble ISD students to receive free or reduced-priced meals without impacting schools' budgets because the funding is in place for meals.

Humble ISD's Child Nutrition Services Department serves 5.7 million meals annually and covers all costs through federal funds and food sold in school cafeterias. No local tax revenue is used to fund operations in school cafeterias.