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INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

70 Rubles Per Student

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State stipends for college students from 2011 to 2013 will be increased by a modest 70 rubles ($2.30) to 1,170 rubles ($38) a month, Moskovsky Komsomolets reported Wednesday, citing a draft of the federal education budget.

Students receiving post-secondary education will get a raise of 25 rubles, bringing their stipends to 425 rubles, and beginning school teachers will be paid 4,500 rubles a month, a 300 ruble increase from current payments.

The state will allot a bigger percentage of its expenses for education, which will get 5.3 percent of all budget expenditures in 2012 compared with 4.3 percent this year. But the head of the State Duma's Education Committee, Grigory Balykhin, still deplored the proposed raises as "ridiculous," the report said.

(MT)

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