Union Grove School District

Jody Day – Board President
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Superintendent
Dr. Greg Bower

Principals
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Jill Winn, Dean of Students

Stephaney Wallace, Elementary
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November 9, 2026

Dear School Health Advisory Council:

Texas law requires public school food authorities with 50% or more of enrolled students eligible for free or reduced-price meals in the National School Lunch Program to operate a Summer Nutrition Program to provide meals to students in need for a minimum of 30 calendar days during the summer.

While Union Grove ISD meets this requirement, our board of trustees in conjunction with the recommendation of our superintendent, intends to seek a waiver from the state excusing our district from this mandate. Part of the requirement in seeking a waiver is to formally notify our local School Health Advisory Council of our intentions regarding the operation of the summer nutrition program.

The reasons for our rationale is as follows:

1. Transportation Considerations – As you already know, our rural school sits along State Highway 271. The extremely few students who live within reasonable walking distance to our school would have to walk along this highway in order to walk to our school. Aside from that, there are no crosswalks or sidewalks, for them to use. Furthermore, there is no availability of public transportation for them to consider. If these weren't factors enough, approximately 95% of our students live further than 2 miles from our school, so the walking distance is unreasonable. Currently, approximately 340 or our 670 students are bus riders and have no reliable means to get to school.
2. Cost Effectiveness – Currently, our cafeteria staff is not required to work during the summers. Last year, we operated from a meager rural school budget that did not stay out of the red. Hiring them to operate during the summer would most likely increase this deficit significantly. Also, many of our staff members enjoy working in the cafeteria because they are off during the summer and enjoy spending time with their own children. It would be doubtful that we could employ substitutes for the 30 days necessary.

We hope to be able to offer this program to our students in the future, but as of this year, we will be requesting a waiver from the state regarding this mandate.

If you have any questions, or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact our Superintendent, Dr. Bower.

On behalf of the Union Grove ISD Board of Trustees, I want to thank your advisory council for their time, commitment, and dedication to the students of our district.

Sincerely,

Jody Day – Board President