

MEMO

TO: Dr. Ilandus Hampton,
Assistant Superintendent for Business & Personnel

FROM: Mrs. Julie Adelmann,
Director of Support Services

DATE: December 1, 2025

RE: Recommendation for Summer Food Service – 2026

School Districts are required to provide summer food service in schools that offer a summer school program and have 50% or more students eligible for free and reduced meals based on the October 2025 ISBE claim. This would require Joliet Central, Joliet West and Pathways to provide meals to students on the days summer school is held.

During the summer of 2020 and 2021, Joliet Township High School was able to provide breakfast and lunch to all summer program students at Joliet Central, West and Pathways and members of the community 18 years of age or younger at no cost to recipients in a curbside format. The program ran at a deficit of over \$60,000. The USDA waivers that allowed curbside, non-congregate feedings ended after the summer of 2021:

	June 2020	July 2020	June 2021	July 2021	District Totals
Total Meals	16228	8642	10736	6136	41742
Total Costs	\$68,126.98	\$20,184.90	\$97,043.88	\$16,901.76	\$ 202,257.52
Total Reimbursements	\$52,964.13	\$28,205.32	\$36,395.04	\$20,801.04	\$ 138,365.53

Historically we have had low participation. The projected meal cost for 2026 would be \$5.11. The reimbursement rate for 2026 has not been announced at this time, but it is currently \$4.71 for lunch. Based on similar participation in 2018, I estimate the school district will incur a loss of \$10,770. The estimated cost is as follows:

Expenses		Revenue	
Food & Supplies	\$ 22,000	Cash Sales	\$0
Milk	\$ 2,100	Reimbursement	\$19,656
Salaries	\$ 10,770.00		
Total Expenses	\$ 34,870	Total Revenue	\$19,656

Public Act 096-0734 allows school districts to utilize an “opt-out” provision if documentation is provided showing the reimbursement will not fully cover the costs of implementing and operating a program. The data above was based on a non-congregate, curbside food distribution. Meals distributed in a congregate setting (required to be eaten on site) will continue to cause a program deficit of over \$10,000 based on current 2025-26 estimates.

A summer school program at JTHS would be duplication of programs offered at Joliet District 86 school and other local sites. High School students are allowed to participate in their summer food program.

I recommend the school district petition the Regional Superintendent to “opt-out” of the summer food service program for the summer of 2026 at all three of our serving sites: Joliet Central, Joliet West, and Pathways.