

# MEMO

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

FROM: Mr. Brian Shaw,  
Director of Support Services

DATE: December 2, 2024

RE: Recommendation for Summer Food Service – 2025

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 2023 ISBE claim. This would require Joliet Central, Joliet West and Pathways to provide meals to students on 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

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 is based on a non-congregate, curbside food distribution. Meals distributed during the summer of 2025 are required to be eaten on site (congregate setting) and will continue to cause a program deficit of over \$10,000 based on current estimates.

I recommend the school district petition the Regional Superintendent to “opt-out” of the summer food service program for the summer of 2025 at all three of our serving sites: Joliet Central, Joliet West, and Pathways.