



# memo

To: The Board of Education and Dr. Patrick Broncato, Superintendent  
From: Curt Saindon, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services/CSBO  
Date: April 17, 2026  
Subject: School Year 2026-2027 Food Service Contract Renewal

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As you know, last winter we completed the process of publishing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Food Service Management Company to provide school meals (breakfast and lunch) for our students and staff, in accordance with the National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs. Last spring, we selected Quest Food Service Management from Lombard, IL. At the conclusion of that process, and they have been providing meals under their vended bulk food program, whereby they prepare meals and meal components at their commissary in the Union School District and ship those items up to us via delivery truck in food warmers. Their on-site staff then prepares the meals and serves them under the guidelines of the USDA meal program. The agreement is for five years, but is really a series of five one-year contracts, renewable annually, with price increases tied to the CPI-U Food Away From Home index, as provided by the US Department of Labor and Statistics. That index was 4.1% for 2025, so the contract increase for next year is 4.1%. That will raise prices from \$2.99 to \$3.11 per breakfast and \$4.77 to \$4.97 per lunch. We will be charging \$3.15 per breakfast (making 4 cents per pay meal sold) and \$5.00 per lunch (making 3 cents per pay meal sold). This meal includes milk. We expect the combined State and Federal meal program reimbursements to cover those costs, and that information should be finalized and available in May. No adjustments to the meal prices approved by the Board in March are necessary, and with ISBE's approval of our contract with Quest for next year, we can now begin publicizing next year's meal prices to our families.

We have been extremely happy with the quality of the food, the variety of the menu, the staffing, and the service provided by Quest, and we have seen our participation rates more than double so far this year! We are looking forward to continuing to grow and develop the program, and to providing even more high-quality menu options for our students and staff. Our hope is to grow participation rates to 65%-75% for our free-lunch students and 40%-50% for our pay students over time. There is no formal Board action needed at this time, and I have attached some related information as background. As always, if you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to let me know. Thank you.