

PRESS RELEASE

To: Local and Area Media
[Including Kokomo Tribune, Kokomo Perspective, WWKI,
WIOU/Z92.5, Peru Tribune, WARI Radio, Tipton Tribune]

From: David Barnes, Director of Communications
Kokomo School Corporation (dbarnes@kokomo.k12.in.us)

Date: May 6, 2019 [May 30, 2019 & June 6, 2019]

Re: **FREE lunches for ALL children at “Open” sites**

The Board of School Trustees has approved the participation of the Kokomo School Corporation in the Summer Food Service Program from Monday, June 10 to Friday, July 12, 2019.

Kokomo Schools Food Services Director Jack Lazar explained that lunches, either hot or cold, will be served FREE to ALL children, age 18 and under, at two local "OPEN" host sites – Carver Community Center (1030 N. Purdum Street) and Garden Square Apartments (800 E. Hoffer Street). Meals will be provided FREE from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday, from June 10 to July 12 this summer. No meals will be served Thursday, July 4th.

This federally funded Summer Food Service Program is operated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is administered by the Indiana Department of Education. Kokomo School Corporation officials noted that more than 14 million children nationally depend on free or reduced-price lunches during the school year, and that this need for good nutrition is critical for children to have a safe and productive summer.

Menu items include chicken nuggets, ham & cheese sandwiches, pizza, hot dogs with coney sauce, sub sandwiches, cheeseburgers, vegetables, and milk. The lunches will be prepared in the Kokomo School Corporation kitchens and then transported to the "OPEN" sites at Carver Community Center and Garden Square Apartments, where each site has volunteers who have been trained to serve the food to the children.

Kokomo Schools officials wish to emphasize that this Summer Food Service Program is FREE to ALL children 18 years of age or under. This program also is OPEN and FREE to children from any school corporation. No discrimination is allowed in the course of this meal service.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, Kokomo School Corporation policy is prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. It is the policy of the Indiana Department of Education not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability, in its programs, activities, or employment policies as required by the Indiana Civil Rights Law (I.C. 22-9-1), Title VI and VII (Civil Rights Act of 1964), the Equal Pay of 1973, Title IX (Educational Amendments, Section 504 (Rehabilitation Act of 1973), and the Americans with Disabilities Act.