## **PRESS RELEASE**



## **Jackson County Public Schools**

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\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\*

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## Jackson County Board of Commissioners Funds No-Cost Meals for JCPS Students for Second Year

[SYLVA, NC] Jackson County Public Schools (JCPS) is delighted to announce that—for the second consecutive year—every student in our district will receive school breakfast and lunch at no cost, thanks to generous funding from the Jackson County Board of Commissioners. This incredible initiative ensures that our students stay fueled and focused, eliminating the stress of meal costs for families across the county.

Last year, this cost exceeded \$500,000 and the Board of Commissioners willingly agreed to carry the burden of this expense. They recognize the need to care for our students and provide an ideal learning environment.

"We believe no child should learn on an empty stomach—and thanks to our county leaders, they won't have to," says School Nutrition Director Laura Cabe.

Not only does this include each student in JCPS, but also students in Western Carolina University's Catamount School, as we prepare and deliver meals to their school.

"When our students and families don't have to worry about where their next meal is coming from, they're free to focus on learning, growing, and thriving," said Superintendent Dr. Dana Ayers. "We're so thankful for our partnership with the Board of Commissioners and their continued investment in the well-being of our students."

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