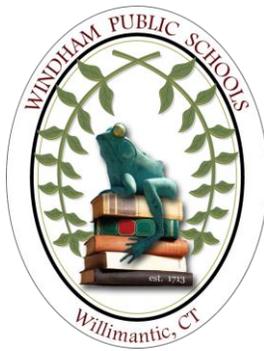


Dr. Patricia Garcia, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
355 High Street, Unit B
Willimantic, CT 06226
(860) 465-2310
pGarcia@windham.k12.ct.us



Margaret Chatey
Public Information Officer
355 High Street, Unit B
Willimantic, CT 06226
(860) 465-2105
mChatey@windham.k12.ct.us

PRESS RELEASE

Media Contact: Margaret Chatey
mChatey@windham.k12.ct.us
(860) 465-2105 Office
(860) 771-1224 Cell

Free Summer Meals Available at Ten Sites Across Windham for all Children 18 and Under.

WINDHAM, CT, May 23, 2019 – Windham Public Schools announces that free summer meals are available for all children ages 18 and younger this summer at locations across Windham, starting June 17. The Windham Board of Education is participating in the federally funded Summer Food Service Program. This program has served Windham children for 30 years, with nutritious meals provided at no charge at ten sites across town, and additional access to free meals all across the state.

“Windham Public School’s free Summer Meals program allows all youth ages 18 years or younger to grab a breakfast or lunch from any one of our many sites. We encourage Windham families to stop down, and bring their children and their friends to enjoy a freshly prepared meal any weekday all the way until August 16,” says Eric Volle, Director of Food Services for Windham Public School who is coordinating this program for the sixth summer.

“For a portion of the summer in July, free summer meals will also be served at Eastern Connecticut State University” adds Mr. Volle, “in order to serve Windham students who are at camp there. Students attending Summer School at C.H. Barrows STEM Academy will also be served breakfast and lunch. Our staff of full-time food service employees is organizing a finely tuned schedule of preparing meals out of the Windham High School kitchen, and moving around the town serving breakfasts and lunches to kids.”

Federal guidelines require that children are required to eat their free meal at the site, but there are certain packaged snacks and fruit they may also pick up to enjoy later in the day, expanding the food support beyond the meal time. Each meal includes up to five different components that children may choose, including fruits and vegetables they are required to select. Federal guidelines also are very strict about start and end times, so families are urged to be prompt.

Ivy Gardens and Memorial Park are two meal sites outdoors with no cover, so if there is heavy rain, hail or lightning, there is no meal service. Families are encouraged to visit the school district’s website, windhamps.org, to find alternative sites, or use the free meal site-finder to find free meals at locations across Connecticut, calling 211, or texting CTmeals to 877877.

“We hope that every family will take advantage of these free meals. There is no reason for any child in Connecticut to be hungry this summer with such an extensive network of free meals sites. We are eager for every family to know about this service,” says Mr. Volle. Each year Windham Public Schools Summer Meals program serves approximately 25,000 meals throughout the summer.

“Due to the extreme heat and the holiday this first week we have seen a slow start at some of our more popular sites, but we know as the summer goes on families will come to take advantage of this great opportunity for free breakfasts and for lunches,” says Mr. Volle.

For more information, contact Eric Volle at 860-465-2491.

The summer meal schedule which starts the week after school ends on June 17 extends through August 16, 2019, although meals will not be served on July 4 and 5.

| Name & Address of Sites | Meals Available & Serving Times | Meal Service Dates |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| Lauter Park 79 Gordon Avenue | Breakfast 8:45-9:15 Lunch 11:50-12:30 | 6/17/19 to 8/23/19 |
| Village Heights 108 Cameo Drive | Breakfast 8:30-9:00 Lunch 11:00-11:30 | 6/17/19 to 8/16/19 |
| Windham Heights 202 Scott Road | Breakfast 8:00-8:30 Lunch 11:00-11:30 | 6/17/19 to 8/16/19 |
| Barrows STEM Academy 141 Tuckie Road | Breakfast 7:45-8:30 Lunch 11:0-12:30 | 7/8/19 to 8/1/19 Monday-Thursday |
| Windham High School 355 High Street | Breakfast 7:15-9:00 Lunch 11:45-12:45 | 6/17/19 to 8/16/19 |
| Ivy Gardens 84 Ash Street | Lunch 10:45-11:15 | 6/17/19 to 8/16/19 |
| Memorial Park 1073 Main Street | Lunch 11:45-12:15 | 6/17/19 to 8/16/19 |
| Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham Street | Breakfast 9:15-9:45 Lunch 12-12:30 | 7/1/19 to 7/25/19 Monday-Thursday |
| West Avenue at Keating Street | Lunch 11:45-12:30 | 6/17/19 to 8/16/19 |
| Salvation Army 316 Pleasant Street | Breakfast 8:30-9:00 Lunch 12:00-12:30 | 6/24/19 to 7/26/19 |

In case of heavy rain, lightning or hail storm, meals will not be delivered to Ivy Gardens or Memorial Park.