



COMPTROLLER'S INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Warren County High School

March 26, 2026

Jason E. Mumpower
Comptroller of the Treasury



DIVISION OF INVESTIGATIONS



JASON E. MUMPOWER
Comptroller

March 26, 2026

Warren County Schools
2548 Morrison Street
McMinnville, TN 37110

Warren County School Officials:

The Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury conducted an investigation of selected records of the Warren County High School, and the results are presented herein.

Copies of this report are being forwarded to Governor Bill Lee, the State Attorney General, the District Attorney General of the 31st Judicial District, certain state legislators, and various other interested parties. A copy of the report is available for public inspection in our Office and may be viewed at <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/ia/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jason E. Mumpower", is written over a faint, larger version of the signature.

Jason E. Mumpower
Comptroller of the Treasury

JEM/MLC

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Warren County High School

The Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury investigated allegations of malfeasance related to Warren County High School. The investigation was initiated after Warren County Schools officials reported allegations that an employee asked students to get lunch for her using their student identification numbers. The investigation was limited to selected records for the period August 5, 2025, through November 24, 2025. The results of the investigation were communicated with the Office of the District Attorney General of the 31st Judicial District.

BACKGROUND



Warren County High School (WCHS) is in McMinnville, Tennessee, and serves approximately 1,790 students in grades 9 through 12. The WCHS cafeteria routinely serves breakfast and lunch at no cost to students through the National School Breakfast Program (NSBP) and the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). The Warren County Schools Nutrition department (WCSN) is an accredited School Food Authority responsible for administering the NSBP and NSLP in all Warren

County schools “...by implementing standards, procedures, and requirements that are set forth by the United States Department of Agriculture and the Tennessee Department of Education.” Warren County Schools (WCS) participates in the Community Eligibility Provision of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, which “allows schools and school districts in low-income areas to eliminate school meal applications and serve breakfast and lunch at no charge to all enrolled students.” Students receive breakfast or lunch at no cost when they enter their student identification numbers. Teachers are not eligible for the NSBP and NSLP and must pay for their meals with cash or check.

The WCHS serves lunch in thirty-minute periods during the fourth instructional block. The *WCHS Student Handbook* outlines *Cafeteria Procedures*, which state:

1. Every student is to go to the cafeteria during his/her assigned lunch period. No one is to remain in other areas of the building...
2. Students must eat their meals in the cafeteria – DO NOT take food and/or drinks into other parts of the building.

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION

1. A WARREN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER IMPROPERLY ASKED STUDENTS TO GET LUNCH FOR HER USING THEIR STUDENT IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS

A WCHS teacher improperly asked students to get lunch for her using their student identification numbers. During instructional time prior to her class's scheduled lunch period, the teacher asked students who typically brought their lunch from home to go to the cafeteria to get lunch for her. The teacher did not give the students any form of payment (i.e., cash or check) to buy the meal. The students used their student identification numbers in the cafeteria line to obtain the meal for their teacher.

The teacher told investigators that she knew students did not have to pay for lunch and that she would regularly ask different students to get her a meal. Often, the teacher would provide the students with a sticky note indicating specific food item requests. The teacher stated that she likes to eat pizza and salads from the WCHS cafeteria and would buy lunch from the WCHS cafeteria every day if she could use her [debit or credit] card to pay for the meal, but teachers must pay with cash or check. The teacher added that she would also eat students' extra or unwanted food from the WCHS cafeteria. The teacher noted that she provides drinks and snacks to students in her classroom as well.

The teacher stated that she has asked students to get lunch for her since the 2022-2023 school year. A review of the teacher's fall 2025 fourth block class's student transaction history reports for meals revealed at least seven instances in which a student from the class got a meal for the teacher prior to the class's regularly scheduled lunch period.

Because teachers are in authority over students, the teacher improperly asking students to get lunch for her creates the risk that a student may not get their own lunch because the student has already used their student identification number to get lunch for the teacher. The WCS eligibility for discretionary Federal funds may be at risk as well.

INTERNAL CONTROL DEFICIENCY

Our investigation revealed an internal control deficiency, which resulted in the teacher's ability to improperly ask students to get lunch for her using their student identification numbers to go undetected for several years. The deficiency included:

Deficiency 1: Warren County High School officials did not enforce school policy

WCHS officials did not enforce school policy. The *WCHS Student Handbook* outlines *Cafeteria Procedures*, prohibiting students from taking their lunch out of the cafeteria or from eating their

lunch in a teacher's classroom. Instead, students regularly brought lunch from the cafeteria to their teacher in her classroom. Other students routinely ate lunch in the teacher's classroom at least two of the four lunch periods during the fourth instructional block as well. Enforcing school policy reduces the risk that error, fraud, waste, or abuse will occur and remain undetected.

Warren County Schools officials indicated that they have corrected or intend to correct these deficiencies.
