



North Dakota Legislative Council

Prepared for the Legislative Management
LC# 27.9221.01000
June 2026

2026 GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT MEASURE

This memorandum summarizes the initiated constitutional measure scheduled to be included on the 2026 general election ballot.

INITIATED CONSTITUTIONAL MEASURE NO. 3 - SCHOOL MEALS MEASURE

The [initiated constitutional measure](#) relating to school meals would add a new section to Article VIII of the Constitution of North Dakota. All public school districts, public schools, and public charter schools would be required to provide breakfast and lunch to students at no cost to the students or their parents or guardians, while the requirement would be optional for nonpublic schools, Bureau of Indian Education schools, and other tribal schools. The measure would not apply to schools of higher education.

A school would be eligible for reimbursement from the state for the cost of each breakfast and lunch served if the school participated in federal school meal funding programs to the fullest extent possible and encouraged parents and guardians of students to apply for those programs. The state would be required to reimburse each eligible school at the reimbursement rate published by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), annually adjusted for inflation, less any federal reimbursement. If USDA rates were no longer available, the Superintendent of Public Instruction would select an equivalent alternative inflationary measure. The Legislative Assembly would be required to fund the reimbursements, appropriating funding from the Legacy Earnings Fund if another funding source could not be identified.

The measure would be implemented beginning with the 2027-28 school year, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction would be authorized to adopt rules and policies to ensure timely implementation. The measure would permit laws to be enacted to facilitate, safeguard, expand, or implement the section, but not to hamper, restrict, or impair it. The measure would be required to be liberally construed. The provisions of the measure would be severable, and any provision of the measure held invalid would not affect the remaining provisions. If this section conflicted with North Dakota law, this section would control.