

**FISCAL NOTE**  
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE

**ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES (See narrative for political subdivision estimates)**

| EXPENDITURES | GENERAL   | CASH | FEDERAL | REVOLVING | TOTAL     |
|--------------|-----------|------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| FY2025-2026  | 0         | 0    | 0       | 0         | 0         |
| FY2026-2027  | 0         | 0    | 0       | 0         | 0         |
| FY2027-2028  | 1,206,817 | 0    | 0       | 0         | 1,206,817 |
| FY2028-2029  | 1,206,817 | 0    | 0       | 0         | 1,206,817 |
| REVENUE      | GENERAL   | CASH | FEDERAL | REVOLVING | TOTAL     |
| FY2025-2026  | 0         | 0    | 0       | 0         | 0         |
| FY2026-2027  | 0         | 0    | 0       | 0         | 0         |
| FY2027-2028  | 0         | 0    | 0       | 0         | 0         |
| FY2028-2029  | 0         | 0    | 0       | 0         | 0         |

**Any Fiscal Notes received from state agencies and political subdivisions are attached following the Legislative Fiscal Analyst Estimate.**

LB966 amends §79-10, 137 to create the Hunger-Free Schools Act & Program.

The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) will annually reimburse each qualified school a portion of the cost of each eligible meal served by that school during the second preceding school year in an amount equal to the difference between the federal reimbursement rate for a free meal & the federal reimbursement rate for a reduced-price meal for each eligible meal. The calculation of the reimbursement for each eligible meal will be based on the federal reimbursement rates for a school breakfast or a school lunch as applicable to the eligible meal.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is intent for the Legislature to appropriate money from the General Fund to NDE to carry out the Hunger-Free Schools Act.

Based off of the 2024-25 school year meal count information, NDE is estimating that \$1,206,817 for the 2026-27 school year & that data would then be used for when the bill takes effect for the 2027-28 school year.

| ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STATE BUDGET DIVISION: REVIEW OF AGENCY & POLT. SUB. RESPONSE                        |                  |   |                       |
|--|------------------|---|-----------------------|
| LB: <b>966</b>   | AM:              | AGENCY/POLT. SUB: <b>Nebraska Department of Education</b> |                       |
| REVIEWED BY: Kimberly Burns  | DATE: 02/12/2026 |   | PHONE: (402) 471-4171 |
| COMMENTS: The Nebraska Department of Education's assessment of fiscal impact from LB 966 appears reasonable. |                  |   |                       |

Please complete **ALL (5)** blanks in the first three lines.

**2026**

**LB<sup>(1)</sup> 966**

**FISCAL NOTE**

**State Agency OR Political Subdivision**  
Name: <sup>(2)</sup>

Nebraska Department of Education

**Prepared by:** <sup>(3)</sup> Bryce Wilson

**Date Prepared:** 2/11/26

<sup>(4)</sup>

**Phone:** <sup>(5)</sup> 402-471-4320

**ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION**

**FY 2026-27**

**FY 2027-28**

|                      | <b>EXPENDITURES</b> | <b>REVENUE</b> | <b>EXPENDITURES</b> | <b>REVENUE</b> |
|----------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| <b>GENERAL FUNDS</b> |                     |                | 1,206,817           |                |
| <b>CASH FUNDS</b>    |                     |                |                     |                |
| <b>FEDERAL FUNDS</b> |                     |                |                     |                |
| <b>OTHER FUNDS</b>   |                     |                |                     |                |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>   |                     |                | 1,206,817           |                |

**Explanation of Estimate:**

LB 966 provides reimbursement for qualified schools who provide free meals to students that are eligible for reduced price school meals. The reimbursement to each qualified school would be the difference of the Federal reimbursement rate for a free meal compared to the Federal rate for a reduced-price meal for qualifying students.

The NDE estimates the cost for the reimbursement of lunch to be \$972,851 and breakfast to be \$233,966 using the meal count information from last year.

NDE is assuming this bill would go into effect for the 2026/27 school year if passed and would require reimbursement beginning in 2027/28.

**BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE**

**Personal Services:**

| <b>POSITION TITLE</b> | <b>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</b> |              | <b>2026-27 EXPENDITURES</b> | <b>2027-28 EXPENDITURES</b> |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                       | <b>26-27</b>               | <b>27-28</b> |                             |                             |
| .....                 |                            |              |                             |                             |
| .....                 |                            |              |                             |                             |

**Benefits.....**

**Operating.....**

**Travel.....**

**Capital outlay.....**

**Aid.....**

**Capital improvements.....**

**TOTAL.....**

1,206,817

1,206,817

