

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: 966 AM: AGENCY/POLT. SUB: Nebraska Department of Education
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⁽¹⁾ 966

FISCAL NOTE

State Agency OR Political Subdivision
Name: ⁽²⁾

Nebraska Department of Education

Prepared by: ⁽³⁾ Bryce Wilson

Date Prepared: 2/11/26
⁽⁴⁾

Phone: ⁽⁵⁾ 402-471-4320

ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

	FY 2026-27		FY 2027-28	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS			1,206,817	
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS			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:

POSITION TITLE	NUMBER OF POSITIONS		2026-27	2027-28
	26-27	27-28	EXPENDITURES	EXPENDITURES
Benefits.....				
...				
Operating.....				
....				
Travel.....				
.				
Capital outlay.....				
Aid.....				1,206,817
.				
Capital improvements.....				
TOTAL.....				1,206,817
