

**INITIATIVE PETITION**  
**TO THE NORTH DAKOTA**  
**SECRETARY OF STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA**

We, the undersigned, being qualified electors of the state of North Dakota request the following initiated law be placed on the ballot as provided by law in North Dakota Century Code 16.1-01-09.

**SPONSORING COMMITTEE**

The following are the names and addresses of the qualified electors of the state of North Dakota who, as the sponsoring committee for the petitioners, represent and act for the petitioners in accordance with law:

Robin Anderson Nelson Peterson CHAIR 2739 30 <sup>th</sup> Ave S Fargo, ND 58103 701-238-1188 robin@togetherforschoolmeals.org	Owen McKenna 709 7 <sup>th</sup> Ave SE Jamestown, ND 58401	Nick Archuleta 3105 46 <sup>th</sup> Ave SE Mandan, ND 58554	Ashley Gaschk 912 E Turnpike Ave Bismarck, ND 58501	Joan Marie Enderle 4024 4 <sup>th</sup> Ave NW Jamestown, ND 58401	Bret Dockter 508 Pleasant St. Harvey, ND 58341
Sara Marie Medalen 804 Clarke Drive Minot, ND 58701	Amanda Olson 1492 Highway 52 E Anamoose, ND 58710	Sarah E. Lerud 652 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave NE Valley City, ND 58072	Kathleen Schneider 1324 Eagles View Ln Bismarck, ND 58503	Michelle Amanda Wagner 3809 Knudsen Loop Bismarck, ND 58503	Jordan Svenningsen 1574 122 <sup>nd</sup> Ave SE Luverne, ND 58056
Katherine L. Gartner 4419 Tucker Ln Bismarck, ND 58503	Tamara L. Toepke-Floyd 210 15 <sup>th</sup> Ave NE Jamestown, ND 58401	Joan Ruth Knoll 1119 Hillside Terrace Bismarck, ND 58501	Erin Laverdure 520 Lyon St Stanton, ND 58571	Amy L. Neal 1012 20 <sup>th</sup> Str. NW Minot, ND 58703	Julie Berg 406 Napa Loop Bismarck, ND 58504
Shannon Bacon 826 Park Dr. S Fargo, ND 58103	Stephen Lyle McDonough 9501 Oak Drive Bismarck, ND 58503	Cheryl Kary 424 Ashwood Ave Bismarck, ND 58504	Martin C Toepke-Floyd 210 15 <sup>th</sup> Ave NE Jamestown, ND 58401	Terryl Ann Roningen 209 W. Brandon Dr. Bismarck, ND 58503	Mary Lenora Eldredge Sandbo 308 Roosevelt Street Des Lacs, ND 58733
Jill A. Vallejo 3801 Nickerson Ave Bismarck, ND 58503	Lyndon Thompson 222 16 <sup>th</sup> Ave S Carrington, ND 58421	Julie Thompson 222 16 <sup>th</sup> Ave S Carrington, ND 58421	Cody Stangeland 1190 2 <sup>nd</sup> St. S Carrington, ND 58421	Brooke Kollman 1555 3 <sup>rd</sup> St. S Carrington, ND 58421	Patty Zink 420 10 <sup>th</sup> Ave N Carrington, ND 58421
Michelle Kliem 1450 3 St. So Carrington, ND 58421	Preston C Burchill 12539 18 <sup>th</sup> St. SE Page, ND 58064	Nora Klocke 211 7 Ave S Carrington, ND 58421	Amy Richards Heuer 2806 Manchester St Bismarck, ND 58504	Kelly Jones 856 47th Ave NE Heaton, ND 58418	

OFFICIAL USE ONLY  
Number of accepted  
signatures in packet \_\_\_\_\_

# PETITION TITLE

This initiated measure amendment would add a new section to article VIII of the North Dakota Constitution. Under this section, all public school districts, public schools, and public charter schools are mandated to provide one free breakfast and one free lunch each school day to enrolled students; nonpublic schools, the Bureau of Indian Education schools, and other tribal schools have the option to provide the same. This section does not apply to schools of higher education. School districts and schools that provide these meals are eligible for reimbursement by the state if they maximize federal reimbursement, participate in applicable federal programs for school breakfast and lunch funding, and encourage parents and guardians to apply for free and reduced-price meals. The state shall reimburse eligible school districts and schools at one hundred percent of the current rates used by the state for free meals. This reimbursement is mandatory and shall be adjusted annually for inflation. If the legislative assembly is unable to identify a source of funds for the reimbursement, funds will be appropriated from the legacy earnings fund. Laws may be enacted to facilitate, safeguard, expand, or implement this section but not to hamper, restrict, or impair it. In the case of any conflict between provisions of this section and North Dakota law, the provisions of this section shall control.

## FULL TEXT OF THE MEASURE

IF TEXT IS UNDERScoreD, IT IS NEW TEXT BEING ADDED. IF TEXT IS ~~STRUCK THROUGH~~, IT IS TEXT BEING DELETED. IF TEXT IS NOT UNDERScoreD OR OVERSTRUCK, THE TEXT IS THE EXISTING LAW THAT IS NOT BEING CHANGED.

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**BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** A new Section 7 is added to Article VIII, Education, of the Constitution of the State of North Dakota:

1. All public school districts, public schools, and public charter schools shall — while nonpublic schools, Bureau of Indian Education schools, and other tribal schools may — provide one breakfast and one lunch every school day to all enrolled students, at no cost to students, their parents, or their guardians.
2. To be eligible for reimbursement by the state, any school district or school that provides free breakfasts and free lunches under this section shall maximize federal reimbursement, including by participating in all applicable federal programs for school breakfast and lunch funding, and by encouraging parents and guardians to apply for free or reduced price breakfasts and lunches.
3. The state shall reimburse eligible school districts and schools at 100% of the reimbursement rates that the state used as of the first day of the 2025 to 2026 school year for free breakfasts and free lunches, multiplied by the number of breakfasts and lunches served, respectively, less the amount of any other government reimbursement received for providing breakfasts and lunches. Reimbursement rates shall be automatically adjusted annually for inflation, inclusive of the time between the first day of the 2025 to 2026 school year and the implementation date of this section, using the methodology the United States Department of Agriculture uses to calculate the adjustments it publishes for free breakfasts and free lunches for that school year. If the United States Department of Agriculture adjustments are no longer published, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall choose an alternative equivalent inflationary measure.
4. The reimbursement required under this section is mandatory. In the event the legislative assembly is unable to identify another source of funds, the required funds shall be appropriated from the legacy earnings fund.
5. This section does not apply to schools of higher education.
6. The provisions of this section are self-executing, and all of its provisions are mandatory.
7. The requirements of this section shall apply as of the implementation date, which shall be the first day of the first full school year beginning not less than 90 days after the effective date of this section, and continue thereafter.
8. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall have the authority to issue regulations and guidance and establish procedures in order to ensure timely implementation. Laws may be enacted to facilitate, safeguard, expand, or implement this section, but not to hamper, restrict, or impair it.
9. This section shall be liberally construed to fulfill its purposes.
10. The provisions of this section are severable, and if any provision is held to be invalid, either on its face or as applied, the remaining provisions and their application shall not be affected thereby.
11. In the case of any conflict between any provision of this section and any other provision of North Dakota law, the provisions of this section shall control.

**PETITION TITLE:** This initiated measure amendment would add a new section to article VIII of the North Dakota Constitution. Under this section, all public school districts, public schools, and public charter schools are mandated to provide one free breakfast and one free lunch each school day to enrolled students; nonpublic schools, the Bureau of Indian Education schools, and other tribal schools have the option to provide the same. This section does not apply to schools of higher education. School districts and schools that provide these meals are eligible for reimbursement by the state if they maximize federal reimbursement, participate in applicable federal programs for school breakfast and lunch funding, and encourage parents and guardians to apply for free and reduced-price meals. The state shall reimburse eligible school districts and schools at one hundred percent of the current rates used by the state for free meals. This reimbursement is mandatory and shall be adjusted annually for inflation. If the legislative assembly is unable to identify a source of funds for the reimbursement, funds will be appropriated from the legacy earnings fund. Laws may be enacted to facilitate, safeguard, expand, or implement this section but not to hamper, restrict, or impair it. In the case of any conflict between provisions of this section and North Dakota law, the provisions of this section shall control.

**INSTRUCTIONS TO PETITION SIGNER –** This is a petition to initiate a law to be placed on the ballot in North Dakota as summarized above. To sign you must be a qualified elector of North Dakota – 1) U.S. citizen, 2) at least 18 years old, 3) lived in North Dakota for 30 days. You must sign the petition in the presence of the individual circulating the petition.

**SIGNATURES OF QUALIFIED ELECTORS ONLY – YOU MUST PROVIDE ALL OF THE REQUESTED INFORMATION BELOW**

	Month/ Day /Year	Name of Qualified Elector <b>PRINTED</b>	Name of Qualified Elector <b>SIGNATURE</b>	<b>RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS</b> Include street type (St, Ave, Blvd, etc.), any direction (N, S, NE, W), and apartment or suite numbers, if applicable.	<b>CITY, STATE</b>	<b>ZIP CODE</b>
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**AFFIDAVIT OF CIRCULATOR**  
**RELATED TO SIGNATURES GATHERED FOR:**

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**State of North Dakota**  
**County of** \_\_\_\_\_  
(COUNTY WHERE SIGNED)

I, \_\_\_\_\_, being sworn, say that I am a qualified elector; that I reside at  
(CIRCULATOR FULL NAME)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(COMPLETE RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS – STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP);

that each signature contained on the attached petition was executed in my presence; and that to the best of my knowledge and belief each individual whose signature appears on the attached petition is a qualified elector; and that each signature contained on the attached petition is the genuine signature of the individual whose name it purports to be.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(SIGNATURE OF CIRCULATOR)

Subscribed and sworn to before me on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_, North Dakota.  
(MONTH, DAY) (YEAR) (CITY)

(NOTARY STAMPING DEVICE)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(SIGNATURE OF NOTARIAL OFFICER)