

Introduced by

Representatives Ista, Beltz, Hager, Heinert, Jonas, Mock, Murphy, O'Brien, Richter  
Senators Barta, Braunberger, Hogan

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-07 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to school meal policies.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15.1-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
5 and enacted as follows:

6 **School districts - Policy - School meals.**

7 A school district participating in the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act  
8 [42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.] shall adopt a school meals policy and publish the policy on the school  
9 district's website. A school meals policy must ensure:

- 10 1. A school may not deny a United States department of agriculture reimbursable meal  
11 to ~~or~~ a student who requests one, unless the student's parent or guardian has  
12 provided written permission to the school to withhold a meal. A school may not serve  
13 an alternative meal to a student with an unpaid student meal balance or without funds  
14 to pay for a meal. This provision does not apply to an a la carte food item or second  
15 meal requested by a student during the same meal period.
- 16 2. A school may not dispose of or take away from a child any food that already has been  
17 served to the child on account of the child having an unpaid student meal balance or  
18 lacking the funds to pay for a meal.
- 19 3. A school may not identify or stigmatize a student as receiving a free, reduced-price, or  
20 full-price meal, or a meal for which the child lacks funds to pay, including the use of  
21 tokens, stickers, stamps, or by placing the child's name on a published list of persons  
22 with student meal debt.
- 23 4. A school may not limit a student's participation in any school activities, graduation  
24 ceremonies, field trips, athletics, activity clubs, or other extracurricular activities or

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- 1           access to materials, technology, or other items provided to students due to an unpaid  
2           student meal balance.
- 3        5. A school may not require a student to provide services or perform work, including  
4           cleaning duties or chores, to pay for school meals debt.
- 5        6. A school may not use a collections agency to collect unpaid school meals debt. A  
6           school may not charge or collect fees or additional costs associated with school meals  
7           debt.
- 8        7. A school may contact a student's parent or guardian directly regarding unpaid meals  
9           debt or a school meals account without funds to pay for additional meals. A school  
10           may require a child deliver a sealed letter addressed to the child's parent or guardian  
11           containing a written communication regarding the unpaid school meal debt. The letter  
12           may not be distributed to the child in a manner that stigmatizes the child.
- 13       8. A school shall adopt policies to encourage or provide an incentive for a parent or  
14           guardian of a student to apply for free or reduced meals through the Richard B.  
15           Russell National School Lunch Act [42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.], including when a student  
16           has unpaid school meals debt.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1494

Page 1, line 10, after the first "a" insert "United States department of agriculture reimbursable"

Page 1, line 10, replace ", or" with "a student who requests one, unless the student's parent or guardian has provided written permission to the school to withhold a meal. A school may not"

Page 1, line 11, after the underscored period insert "This provision does not apply to an a la carte food item or second meal requested by a student during the same meal period."

Page 2, line 3, after the underscored period insert:

"7. A school may contact a student's parent or guardian directly regarding unpaid meals debt or a school meals account without funds to pay for additional meals."

Page 2, after line 6, insert:

"8. A school shall adopt policies to encourage or provide an incentive for a parent or guardian of a student to apply for free or reduced meals through the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act [42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.], including when a student has unpaid school meals debt."

Renumber accordingly