

# 2026 North Dakota Legislative Priorities



**The North Dakota state legislature meets only in the ‘odd’ years and so no legislative session was initially planned for 2026. However, a four-day special session was held the week of January 20 in which a bill (HB1624) was introduced to provide free breakfast and lunch to all K-12 students across North Dakota.**

## **Free Breakfast and Lunch for ND Students**

Our members who work in our public schools know hungry children struggle to learn up to their potential. At the direction of our Executive Board and members, AFSCME is proud to join our labor partners supporting free breakfast and lunch for ND Students.

The bill passed in the ND State House but was ultimately defeated by a narrow margin in the ND Senate. Our work in the Together for School Meals coalition alongside community organizations and allied unions continues as we work to collect the required number of signatures for our constitutional ballot measure to imbed the right to free breakfast and lunch for all North Dakota K-12 students in the state constitution, funded by use of the state’s legacy fund. Once that step is complete, the measure will appear on the ballot for all North Dakota voters on the November 2026 ballot. This campaign is incredibly popular across the state, polling with 67% support at the lowest and so we expect victory here in 2026 to feed all North Dakota kids.

To sign up to learn about updates and opportunities to support this initiative visit:  
[www.togetherforschoolmeals.org](http://www.togetherforschoolmeals.org)