

February 17, 2026

The Honorable Jason W. Goetz, Chairperson
House Committee on K-12 Education Budget
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 546-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Goetz:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2656 by Representative Wikle, et al.

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2656 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2656 would establish the No Kid Hungry in Schools Program within the Department of Education. Subject to appropriation, the Department would provide to each participating school district state aid for each school breakfast and lunch served to each student. The amount of aid entitled would be from subtracting the actual federal reimbursement received by the school district and any other reimbursement amounts from the applicable federal reimbursement rate for a free meal at the school, determined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

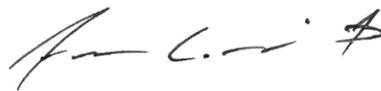
Each participating school district that would qualify for the community eligibility provision would have to elect that option to participate in the Program. Each school that would participate in the Program would have to provide to all students at no cost to the student up to two federally reimbursable meals per day.

According to the Department of Education, the enactment of the bill would require additional state aid to school districts of approximately \$94.0 million from the State General Fund, if the same number of meals are served as in school year 2024-2025 when all meals were free for students because of federally awarded pandemic relief funds. Based on other states that have implemented similar provisions as in HB 2656, the number of meals served to students once all meals are free increased by approximately 50.0 percent, or a total increase of \$145.0 million, all from the State General Fund. The agency states that its current staffing levels and administrative costs could implement the required provisions of the bill. The Division of the Budget notes that the Department reports in its FY 2027 budget narrative that 87.2 million meals and snacks were

served during school year 2024-2025 with a projection of 89.4 million in school year 2025-2026. However, the Division is not aware if “snacks” would be reimbursed under the provisions of HB 2656, Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2656 is not reflected in *The FY 2027 Governor’s Budget Report*.

The Kansas Association of School Districts deferred the fiscal effect estimate to the Department of Education; however, the enactment of the bill would likely reduce costs and staff time in school districts associated with the federal requirement of pursuing unpaid student account balances for school meals before being categorized as a bad debt.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam C. Proffitt", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adam C. Proffitt
Director of the Budget

cc: Gabrielle Hull, Department of Education
Angie Stallbaumer, Kansas Association of School Boards