

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to increase reimbursement rates of school meals, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. HEINRICH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to increase reimbursement rates of school meals, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited “Healthy Meals Help Kids  
5 Learn Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCREASING THE REIMBURSEMENT RATE OF**  
2 **SCHOOL MEALS.**

3 (a) SCHOOL LUNCH INCREASE.—Section 4(b) of the  
4 Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C.  
5 1753(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

6 “(4) NONPERFORMANCE-BASED ADDITIONAL  
7 REIMBURSEMENT.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on October  
9 1, 2026, each lunch served in school food au-  
10 thorities shall receive an additional 45 cents.

11 “(B) ADJUSTMENT.—The amount in sub-  
12 paragraph (A) shall be adjusted in accordance  
13 with section 11(a)(3) beginning on July 1,  
14 2027.”.

15 (b) SCHOOL BREAKFAST INCREASE.—Section  
16 4(b)(1) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C.  
17 1773(b)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
18 lowing:

19 “(F) NONPERFORMANCE-BASED ADDI-  
20 TIONAL REIMBURSEMENT.—

21 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on Oc-  
22 tober 1, 2026, each free breakfast, reduced  
23 price breakfast, and breakfast served to  
24 children not eligible for free or reduced  
25 price meals served in school food authori-  
26 ties shall receive an additional 28 cents.

1                   “(ii) ADJUSTMENT.—The amount in  
2                   clause (i) shall be adjusted in accordance  
3                   with section 11(a)(3) of the Richard B.  
4                   Russell National School Lunch Act begin-  
5                   ning on July 1, 2027 (42 U.S.C.  
6                   1759a(a)(3)).”.