



MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

School Meals for ALL Students

School Meals for ALL Students is a critical and necessary program that MUST be state funded.

School breakfast and lunch were provided for all students during the pandemic at no cost. Unfortunately, this program ended on June 30, 2022 – over the objections of NYS PTA, meal advocates, and our education partners.

Sadly, on September 7, 2022, when our NYS students returned to school, 726,000 children lost access to free breakfast and lunch. WHY ACT NOW? Congress has failed to act, so now New York State must.

No parent, no family, no educator, no one wants to see a child hungry. But that is what is happening. For some, school is the only place they receive a warm or healthy meal.

- A family of four making just \$51,400 is over-income for free school meals
- As a result, in NYS 470,000 children are ineligible for free school meals, but live in households earning less than a living wage
- 1 in 7 kids in New York experiences hunger, disproportionately impacting Black, Latino/x, urban and rural children

What are the benefits of Healthy School Meals for All?

- Levels the playing field for kids and families
- Reduces hunger
- Eliminates stigma and reduces bullying
- Provides families with financial relief
- Saves families an estimated \$140 per child in groceries each month
- Eliminates school meal debt, a significant burden for families and school district budgets

Our State Budget Asks:

- **Provide breakfast & lunch at no cost for all students each school day, regardless of household income**
- **Include a School Meals for ALL program in the Senate and Assembly One House Budgets**



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