

STATE OF NEW YORK

1151

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 7, 2021

Introduced by Sen. KAPLAN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to establishing the "hunger-free campus act"; and making an appropriation therefor

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "hunger-free campus act".

2 § 2. The education law is amended by adding a new section 319 to read as follows:

3 § 319. Hunger-free campus grant program. 1. The commissioner shall
4 establish the hunger-free campus grant program pursuant to this section
5 and regulations of the commissioner adopted for such purpose. Within the
6 amounts appropriated for this purpose, the commissioner shall award
7 grants on a competitive basis to public institutions for higher educa-
8 tion which have one or more campuses that are designated by the commis-
9 sioner as hunger-free campuses.

10 2. The purpose of the grant funding shall be to:

11 a. address student hunger;

12 b. leverage more sustainable solutions to address basic food needs on
13 campus;

14 c. raise awareness of services currently offered on campus which
15 address basic food needs; and

16 d. continue to build strategic partnerships at the local, state, and
17 national levels to address food insecurity among students.

18 3. For an institution to be designated as a hunger-free campus, such
19 institution shall:

20 a. establish a hunger task force that meets a minimum of three times
21 per academic year to set at least two goals with action plans;
22

23 EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 b. designate a staff member responsible for assisting students with
2 enrollment in the state's supplemental nutrition assistance program
3 (SNAP);

4 c. provide options for students to utilize SNAP benefits at campus
5 stores;

6 d. participate in an awareness day campaign activity and plan a campus
7 awareness event during the national hunger and homelessness awareness
8 week;

9 e. provide at least one physical food pantry on campus, or enable
10 students to receive food through a separate, stigma-free arrangement;

11 f. develop a "swipe out hunger" student meal credit sharing program,
12 or designate a certain amount of funds for free meal vouchers that might
13 otherwise be raised through such a program; and

14 g. annually conduct a student survey on hunger, developed by the
15 commissioner, and submit the results of the survey and a best practices
16 campus profile to the commissioner at a time prescribed by the commis-
17 sioner for inclusion in a comparative profile of each campus designated
18 as a hunger-free campus. In the development of the survey, the commis-
19 sioner shall utilize any existing surveys designed to collect informa-
20 tion on food insecurity among students enrolled in public institutions
21 of higher education.

22 4. The commissioner shall allocate grant funding to each public insti-
23 tution of higher education that has one or more campuses designated by
24 the commissioner as a hunger-free campus in accordance with the criteria
25 established pursuant to subdivision three of this section. The commis-
26 sioner shall determine the amount of each grant which shall be used by
27 the institution to further address food insecurity among students
28 enrolled in the institution.

29 5. The commissioner shall submit a report to the governor, the tempo-
30 rary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly, no later
31 than two years after the establishment of the hunger-free campus grant
32 program. The report shall include, but not be limited to, the number and
33 amounts of the grant awards, the impact the grant program has had on
34 establishing additional hunger-free campuses at public institutions of
35 higher education and reducing the number of students experiencing food
36 insecurity, and recommendations on the expansion of the grant program.

37 § 3. The sum of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) is hereby appropri-
38 ated to the department of education from any moneys in the state treas-
39 ury in the general fund to the credit of the state purposes account, not
40 otherwise appropriated, and made immediately available, for the purpose
41 of carrying out the provisions of this act. Such moneys shall be payable
42 on the audit and warrant of the comptroller on vouchers certified or
43 approved by the commissioner of education in the manner prescribed by
44 law.

45 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately.