

# STATE OF NEW YORK

6881--A

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

April 13, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. L. ROSENTHAL -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

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 and private institutions for  
8 higher education which have one or more campuses that are designated by  
9 the commissioner 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. a. For a four-year institution to be designated as a hunger-free  
19 campus, such institution shall:

20 (i) establish a hunger task force which includes student represen-  
21 tatives from the student body that meets a minimum of three times per  
22 academic year to set at least two goals with action plans;  
23

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

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

4 (iii) provide options for students to utilize SNAP benefits at campus  
5 stores or provide students with information on establishments in the  
6 surrounding area of campus where they can utilize SNAP EBT benefits;

7 (iv) participate in an awareness day campaign activity and plan a  
8 campus awareness event during the national hunger and homelessness  
9 awareness week;

10 (v) provide at least one physical food pantry on campus, or enable  
11 students to receive food through a separate, stigma-free arrangement;

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

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

23 b. For a two-year institution to be designated as a hunger-free  
24 campus, it shall meet all of the requirements for four-year institutions  
25 as set forth in paragraph a of this subdivision, with the exception of  
26 the requirements in subparagraphs (iii) and (vi) of such paragraph.

27 4. The commissioner shall allocate grant funding to each public and  
28 private institution of higher education that has one or more campuses  
29 designated by the commissioner as a hunger-free campus in accordance  
30 with the criteria established pursuant to subdivision three of this  
31 section. The commissioner shall determine the amount of each grant which  
32 shall be used by the institution to further address food insecurity  
33 among students enrolled in the institution.

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

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

51 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately.