# STATE OF NEW YORK

9518

# IN ASSEMBLY

March 16, 2022

Introduced by M. of A. GONZALEZ-ROJAS -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to providing universal school meals to students

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

Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 915-a to read as follows:

**§ 915-a. Universal school meals. 1. The department shall require all public school districts, charter schools and non-public schools in the state that participate in the national school lunch program or school breakfast program as provided in the national child nutrition act, as amended, to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to the student. Public school districts, charter schools and non-public schools shall maximize access to federal funds for the cost of school breakfast and lunch programs by adopting Provision 2 of the federal Community Eligibility Provisions or any other provision under such act, the National School Lunch Act or the National Child Nutrition Act as deemed eligible by the department.**

**2. To the extent that the cost of making available school lunches and breakfasts pursuant to subdivision one of this section are not reimbursable through federal funds, the department shall reimburse all such costs. The department shall reimburse the difference between the amount paid by the United States Department of Agriculture and the free rate as set annually by the United States Secretary of Agriculture under 42 U.S.C. 1759a for each school.**

**3. The department in consultation with the office of temporary and disability assistance shall promulgate any rule or regulation needed for public school districts, charter schools and non-public schools to promote the supplemental nutrition assistance program to a student or person in parental relation to a student by either providing application assistance or a direct referral to an outreach partner identified by the department to the office of temporary and disability assistance to increase the number of students directly certified for free or reduced price school meals.**

§ 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.

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

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