

STATE OF NEW YORK

591

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 8, 2025

Introduced by Sens. HINCHEY, ADDABBO, BAILEY, BORRELLO, BROUK, CLEARE, GALLIVAN, JACKSON, MYRIE, ROLISON, SKOUFIS, WEBB -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend chapter 537 of the laws of 1976, relating to paid, free and reduced price breakfast for eligible pupils in certain school districts, in relation to purchases of food products from New York state farmers, growers, producers or processors

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

1 Section 1. Subdivisions b and c of section 5 of chapter 537 of the
2 laws of 1976, relating to paid, free and reduced price breakfast for
3 eligible pupils in certain school districts, subdivision b as amended by
4 section 32-a of part A of chapter 56 of the laws of 2024 and subdivision
5 c as amended by section 22-b of part A of chapter 56 of the laws of
6 2022, are amended to read as follows:
7 b. Notwithstanding any monetary limitations with respect to school
8 lunch programs contained in any law or regulation, for school lunch
9 meals served in the school year commencing July 1, 2022 and each July 1
10 thereafter, a school food authority shall be eligible for a State subsi-
11 dy equal to \$0.1901 per free and paid school lunch meal, and \$0.0519 per
12 reduced-price lunch meal, for any school lunch meal served by such
13 school food authority; provided that the school food authority certifies
14 to the Department of Agriculture and Markets through the application
15 submitted pursuant to subdivision c of this section that such food
16 authority has purchased at least thirty percent of its total cost of
17 food products for its school lunch service program from New York state
18 farmers, growers, producers or processors in the preceding school year.
19 Commencing July 1, 2025, and each July 1 thereafter, a school food
20 authority shall be allowed to attribute moneys spent on purchases of

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

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1 food products from New York state farmers, growers, producers or proces-
2 sors made for its school breakfast program to the thirty percent of
3 costs for school breakfast and lunch service programs.

4 c. The Department of Agriculture and Markets in cooperation with the
5 State Education Department, shall develop an application for school food
6 authorities to seek an additional State subsidy pursuant to this section
7 in a timeline and format prescribed by the commissioner of agriculture
8 and markets. Such application shall include, but not be limited to,
9 documentation demonstrating the school food authority's total food
10 purchases for its school breakfast and lunch service program, and
11 documentation demonstrating its total food purchases and percentages for
12 such program, permitted to be counted under this section, from New York
13 State farmers, growers, producers or processors in the preceding school
14 year. The application shall also include an attestation from the school
15 food authority's chief operating officer that it purchased at least
16 thirty percent of its total cost of food products, permitted to be
17 counted under this section, for its school breakfast and lunch service
18 program from New York State farmers, growers, producers or processors in
19 the preceding school year in order to meet the requirements for this
20 additional State subsidy. School food authorities shall be required to
21 annually apply for this subsidy. After reviewing school food authori-
22 ties' completed applications for an additional State subsidy pursuant to
23 this section, the Department of Agriculture and Markets shall certify to
24 the State Education Department the school food authorities approved for
25 such additional State subsidy and the State Education Department shall
26 pay such additional State subsidy to such school food authorities.

27 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.