

STATE OF NEW YORK

591--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 8, 2025

Introduced by Sens. HINCHEY, ADDABBO, BAILEY, BORRELLO, BROUK, CLEARE, FAHY, GALLIVAN, JACKSON, MYRIE, ROLISON, SKOUFIS, WEBB -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education -- reported favorably from said committee and committed to the Committee on Finance -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

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.

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

LBD00594-04-5

1 Commencing July 1, 2025, and each July 1 thereafter, a school food
2 authority shall be allowed to attribute moneys spent on purchases of
3 food products from New York state farmers, growers, producers or proces-
4 sors made for its school breakfast or snack programs to the thirty
5 percent of costs for school breakfast and lunch service programs.

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

30 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.