



14 Computer Drive East
Albany, NY 12205
518-436-8757 PH
518-458-6068 FAX
HungerSolutionsNY.org

Contact:

LeeAnn Mandrillo

LeeAnn.Mandrillo@hungersolutionsny.org

(518) 414-6293

Gov. Cuomo's No Student Goes Hungry Program A Significant Victory in the Fight Against Childhood Hunger Establishes New York as a Leader in Student Nutrition

For Immediate Release:

ALBANY, NY, April 3 – New York has enacted one of the strongest child hunger measures in the nation in its 2018-19 budget. Governor Cuomo's sweeping plan titled "No Student Goes Hungry" establishes New York as a leader in ensuring access to healthy school meals for students.

One in five New York children are food insecure, meaning they lack access to enough food for an active, healthy life. Hunger takes a profound toll on their health, academic achievement, and ability to reach their full potential. Hunger Solutions New York, a statewide anti-hunger organization dedicated to alleviating hunger for all New Yorkers, commends the legislature for passing No Student Goes Hungry. It will have a significant effect on children who face hunger.

The No Student Goes Hungry program will:

- Provide support for Breakfast After the Bell programs in high-poverty schools – schools in which 70 percent or more of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals – to make breakfast more accessible by offering breakfast after the start of the school day.
- Establish consistent statewide policy to address unpaid school lunch debt ensuring children without money for a meal are not singled out, provided a lesser meal, or otherwise treated differently.
- Expand the Farm to School Program and incentivize the use of farm-fresh, locally grown foods in schools.

This legislative victory is not just the right thing to do; it is the smart thing to do. The state's investment will directly impact children who face hunger by connecting them to the meals they need. Increasing participation in school breakfast makes economic sense, bringing new, untapped federal dollars into schools. Investing in Farm to School directly supports local economies by increasing purchases of locally sourced food and creating new employment opportunities. Furthermore, the Governor's program protects and supports all that New York State invests in education because we know that students can't be hungry to learn if they're just plain hungry.

Linda Bopp, Executive Director of Hunger Solutions New York, said: "We applaud Governor Cuomo's leadership and thank the Legislature for passing the No Student Goes Hungry program. This strategic, comprehensive investment in nourishing our children will improve student health and well-being, support school nutrition programs, and boost the state's agriculture economy."

The immediate impact of the No Student Goes Hungry will be measurable – an increase in the number of children eating school breakfast; healthier, locally-sourced school lunches; and additional funding coming into local schools. However, as the research demonstrates, the effects that matter most are these: children who are no longer plagued by hunger and can focus on their lessons; teachers who see improvements in classroom attentiveness and

behavior; schools with higher attendance and better academic performance; and struggling families with a safety net that can help lift them out of poverty.

No Student Goes Hungry is yet another example of the Governor's commitment to increase access to nutritious food for all New Yorkers. We look forward to working with Governor Cuomo and the Legislature to implement this and future anti-hunger efforts.

About Hunger Solutions New York, Inc.

Hunger Solutions New York is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to alleviating hunger. We promote awareness of hunger, participation in federally-funded nutrition assistance programs for all who are eligible, and public policies that contribute to ending hunger. We also raise awareness of the health, economic and educational benefits of anti-hunger programs. For more information, visit and www.hungersolutionsny.org and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

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If you would like more information on No Student Goes Hungry, please contact Jessica Pino-Goodspeed, Child Nutrition Specialist at Hunger Solutions New York (518) 741-0917 or at jessica.pinogoodspeed@hungersolutionsny.org