



Our Ask is Simple:

ELIMINATE THE STUDENT CONTRIBUTION FOR REDUCED-PRICED MEALS

The New York School Nutrition Association (NYSNA) is a membership organization which represents over 4,000 school nutrition employees, managers, directors, registered dietitians, nutritionists, and industry members committed to ensuring that all students have access to healthy meals. Currently, New York schools serve 6,817,042 reduced-price lunches and 2,472,041 reduced-price breakfasts, which impact approximately 400,000 kids each day.

NYSNA proposes that the State provide schools with an additional 25 cents per meal to replace the amount currently paid by the student under the reduced-price meal program.

This would cost the State approximately \$2,322,270.

- Subsidizing the cost of reduced-price meals would ensure that every student has access to healthy food, regardless of their ability to pay.
- This proposal would complement the anti-shaming initiative by ensuring a child is not embarrassed for paying a quarter for a meal when the student behind him/her is paying the full price.
- Eliminating the reduced category would also help stabilize school food service programs by eliminating the debt owed by reduced-price meal students who have been unable to pay.

The New York School Nutrition Association thanks you for prioritizing the nutritional health and wellbeing of students and urges the inclusion of \$2.3 million in the 2019-20 Executive Budget to eliminate the student contribution for reduced-priced meals.