

# NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

# 2024

Millions of children across New York State are growing up facing hunger, which takes a profound toll on children's health, happiness, and their ability to build successful futures and break the cycle of poverty.

As a result, an estimated **1 in 6** children in New York State could face hunger this year. With the right policies, New York can lead the country in combating rising hunger and making lasting change that ensures that no New Yorker faces hunger in the future. No Kid Hungry New York has prioritized the following legislative proposals which can help children and families facing hunger and poverty.

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## School Meals

School meals provide essential nutrition to help students stay focused during the school day and serve as a lifeline to many children and families.

- **A.1941/S.1678A (Gonzalez-Rojas/Hinchey)**: Requires 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 to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to the student.
- **A.6850/S.6358 (Sayegh/May)**: Requires that parents of students at student orientations, back to school nights, or other beginning of year events receive notification of eligibility for free or reduced price meals for students.

### Contact:

Rachel Sabella, [rsabella@strength.org](mailto:rsabella@strength.org), Director of No Kid Hungry New York

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## Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

SNAP is one of the most effective and efficient ways to ensure that kids and families have the support they need to purchase food.

- **A.3539/S.4519 (Gonzalez-Rojas/Fernandez)**: Eliminates asset limits in calculating the amount of benefits for any household under any public assistance program.
- **A.6214A/S.7663A (Gonzalez-Rojas/May)**: Establishes a state SNAP minimum benefit program to provide eligible households with a monthly benefit equal to the difference between the household's federal SNAP monthly benefit and \$100, and provides state authority to increase the amount as appropriate and subject to available state funds.
- **A.2645/S.2913A (Rosenthal/May)**: Establishes Hunger-Free Campus grant program to address food insecurity among students at public institutions for higher education, including to increase awareness about SNAP and provide more options for students to use benefits.
- **A.4452A/S.4736 (Gonzalez-Rojas/Persaud)**: Authorizes the reissuance of emergency assistance to needy families with children, safety net assistance, SNAP benefits, or emergency assistance for aged, blind and disabled persons in instances of fraud or theft of benefits.

## Economic Opportunity

Tax credits provide families with extra income support to help them avoid having to choose between paying for rent, utilities, and food.

- **A.4022A/S.277A (Hevesi/Gounardes)**: Provides for a working families tax credit of \$1500 per child; directs quarterly prepayment of the credit; provides for a sliding reduction in the credit for incomes which exceed a certain threshold; provides such reduction should not be below \$500.
- **A.5577A/S.5573A (Fahy/Gounardes)**: Increases value of state EITC, provides for quarterly payments, expands eligibility to workers ages 18-25.

### Contact:

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