



## Working Class Families' Anti-Hunger Act ([A2368/S1677](#)) Fact Sheet

Thousands of Children Across New Jersey Will Stop Receiving Free Breakfast and Lunch  
On June 30<sup>th</sup>, the child nutrition waivers issued by the federal government during the COVID-19 pandemic will expire. This critical program allowed school districts to provide breakfast and lunch free of charge to all students across The Garden State for the past two years. But that is about to change.

[The Working-Class Families' Anti-Hunger Act will offer relief to 25,000 students.](#)

### New Jersey's Working Families

The economic impact of the pandemic continues to be felt by households throughout our state, and as supply chains bottleneck and food prices soar, many families continue to face food insecurity. Working class families who have been struggling to keep their heads above water need support. The Working-Class Families Anti-Hunger Act (A2368/S1677) would provide much needed relief to these families by increasing the income eligibility level for free school meals to 200 percent of the federal poverty level. That means the children of a family of four making an annual income of up to \$55,500 would now be eligible for free breakfast and lunch at school. This would expand free school meals to about 25,000 more Garden State students.

### Removing Discipline from School Meal Debt

Students feel the pressure of school meal debts, even when it's not their responsibility. This bill would prohibit the discriminatory treatment of any student who is unable to pay their school meal debt, such as restricting their participation in extracurricular activities, field trips, or school events.

## Notices for Parents

While existing law already requires schools to inform parents and guardians of the National School Lunch Program and the federal School Breakfast Program and provide an application, this legislation would expand on that by requiring schools to provide information on the availability of free or reduced-price meals as well as assistance with the application process.

## Organizations that support this legislation

Advocates for Children of NJ (ACNJ)

AGE MOVEMENT

Anti-Poverty Network of New Jersey

Essex County Council for Young Children

Feeding Hands

Fishermans' Mark

Foodshed Alliance

Found in Thyme Farm Sanctuary

Fufill NJ

Hudson County Department of Family Services

Hudson County Department of Housing and Reintegration

Hunger Free New Jersey

Hunterdon Medical Center

Hunterdon NJCEED

Inspira Health Network

Interfaith Food Pantry of Morris County

Lutherans Engaging in Advocacy

Meals on Wheels of Salem County

Meeting Essential Needs with Dignity, INC (MEND)

New Jersey Catholic Conference

New Jersey Citizen Action

New Jersey Education Association (NJEA)

New Jersey Parent Teacher Association (NJPTA)

New Jersey State School Nurse Association

New Jersey YMCA Alliance

NORWESCAP Food Bank

St. John UMC

Stanhope United Methodist Church

Trenton Area Soup Kitchen

Trenton Health Team

Zufall Health