

**Testimony of New York City Department of Education  
on Proposed Int. No. 773-A**

**Before the New York City Council Committee on Education**

January 25, 2016

*Testimony of Deputy Chancellor Elizabeth Rose*

Good afternoon Chair Dromm and members of the Education Committee. My name is Elizabeth Rose, and I am Deputy Chancellor for the Division of Operations, which includes the Office of SchoolFood. Joining me today is Eric Goldstein, Chief Executive Officer of the Office of School Support Services, who oversees the Office of SchoolFood. Thank you for inviting us to discuss Proposed Intro Number 773-A, which requires the Department of Education to provide data regarding student participation in programs providing free meals at our schools.

I would like to begin by thanking Speaker Mark-Viverito, Chair Dromm, and the entire Council for your leadership and commitment to smart and sustainable food policy throughout the City, particularly with regard to SchoolFood. Specifically, I would like to thank the Council for your support of our Breakfast in the Classroom program, which helps to ensure that students are well nourished when they begin their school day, and of our initiative to provide free lunch for students in 6th-8th grade, the Middle Schools lunch program. We are proud of the innovative work being done by our over 8,500 dedicated employees working out of 1,300 kitchens. We serve more than 900,000 meals per day to students attending over 2,000 schools, including charter schools and non-public schools. We also have 1,400 salad bars in over 1,100 schools throughout the City, the most of any school district in the nation. During Fiscal Year '15 we served, on average, 219,000 breakfasts and 605,000 lunches per day.

SchoolFood is committed to offering students healthy, delicious, and satisfying food choices that meet high nutritional standards. SchoolFood's menus, which are available in nine languages and are posted on our website, are carefully planned by our team of professional chefs. Our free breakfast, school lunch, after school, and Saturday menus offer tasty, nutrient-rich options that appeal to students of all ages and diverse backgrounds. We have also taken steps to improve our communication regarding menus to students and parents via new visual menus. And I would like to remind the Committee that our updated SchoolFood mobile app provides parents, families, and students access to menus across every school grade.

In addition to school lunch, we also offer students with breakfast options as well as summer meal offerings. Each day, SchoolFood makes free breakfast available to every student. We also started, with the Council's support, an in-the-classroom breakfast program as another alternative to help ensure that students start the day with a healthy and nutritious meal. We know that students who eat a healthy breakfast pay closer attention in class and have lower rates of tardiness and absenteeism. We currently have 344 elementary schools participating in this program, which currently serves approximately 30,000 breakfasts per day. By the end of the 2017-2018 school year, this program will expand to include 530 buildings serving 339,000 students.

Further, as the Committee is most likely aware, lunch is now free for all students in the 6th-8th grades who attend stand-alone middle schools. This service, started in the 2014-2015 school year, is part of the Administration's efforts to improve the atmosphere and experience for all of our students in our cafeterias, and to reduce the stigma of qualifying for free meals. We are grateful for the Council's continuing support of this program. In FY15, the average daily lunch participation at middle schools offering free lunch for everyone was 63.9%, an increase of about 6.5% over the prior year.

During the months when school is not in session, we administer the largest summer meals program in the country. In the summer of 2015, we served a record 8.1 million plus meals at over 1,000 locations, including many local parks, pools, libraries, and NYCHA sites. We do not require registration, documentation, or ID to receive a free summer breakfast or lunch. We are also proud to offer mobile food truck service, which sees food trucks deployed to beaches, parks, and playgrounds throughout the City to hand out free lunches to all children 18 years old and younger. Our summer meals menus continue to reflect our commitment to the highest standard of nutrition while offering fresh and appetizing foods.

Further, to increase our local sourcing, we are working closely with the New York State Commissioner of Agriculture to develop relationships with the upstate farming industry. We already source locally grown and/or processed food items such as the 35 million New York State-grown apples, 7 million gallons of New York State-produced milk, and other local products SchoolFood purchases annually. To further our support for locally-sourced products, we have also created New York Thursdays, where SchoolFood highlights locally sourced and produced New York State products in each breakfast and lunch menu on Thursdays. Procuring local products has the added benefit of supporting New York State's economy, while at the same time reducing our environmental footprint. To that end, I would also like to remind the Committee of the Garden to Café program, a partnership with Grow to Learn NYC that connects school and community gardens with our SchoolFood chefs. Students at the 109 participating schools not only have the unique opportunity to taste what they have grown, but can also take part in harvest events and learn about gardening and the local food system. The program also has the benefit of increasing student consumption of more fresh and locally-grown produce.

Nationally, we are a member of the Urban School Food Alliance (The Alliance), which was created by school food professionals in 2012 to leverage the unique needs of the nation's largest school districts. The Alliance allows participating districts to share best practices and leverage their purchasing power to continue to drive quality up and costs down, all while incorporating

sound environmental practices. The six (6) founding cities – New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Miami, Dallas and Orlando – together support over 4,500 schools servicing 2.8 million students daily. This translates to over 469,000,000 meals each year. One of our first major initiatives was designing a new compostable plate to replace polystyrene trays that were dumped in landfills throughout the region. In May 2015, New York City schools started using compostable plates that are made of pre-consumer recycled paper, and designed to resemble the regular plate a child would eat from at home. It's easy for students to handle, and is compostable. Further, we are also excited to announce that we recently selected a vendor for compostable utensils in our cafeterias and look forward to the product roll-out next fall. Another example of the success of our national collaboration has been the implementation of a plan to shift to serving antibiotic-free chicken. Together we are making our cafeterias and our food more sustainable and healthier for millions of children.

We serve a big City with a very diverse palate. In an effort to gain meaningful feedback from our students, we are proud of a program that is opening our SchoolFood headquarters in Long Island City to class visits, which allow for taste-testing by our student focus groups. This innovative pilot program began in May 2014, and we expect to have 2,000 students visit every school year. I am happy to report SchoolFood also conducts regular stakeholder meetings held at individual schools, which allow for students, staff, and parents to engage with the SchoolFood team. Hosting these personalized meetings allows SchoolFood staff to hear student and administration opinions, which further enables us to incorporate their feedback and enhance our SchoolFood programs.

To this end, I would like to remind the Committee that our nutritional standards always meet, and many times exceed, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) guidelines. We have reduced the sodium, fat, and cholesterol in our menu items, and are now working towards eliminating high fructose corn syrup. SchoolFood also prohibits the use of trans-fats, artificial flavors, colors, sweeteners, palm oil, BHA, BHT and MSG.

Regarding the bill before you today, Int. No. 773, we welcome the opportunity to share the success of our SchoolFood program with the Council, and to provide our school communities, advocates, elected officials and other stakeholders with additional information regarding school meals. While we generally support the goal of the legislation, we do have concerns about the qualitative reporting requirements. We look forward to further conversations with the Council.

We have been able to provide all of our students healthy, delicious, and satisfying food choices that meet high nutritional standards thanks to the tremendous hard-work, innovation, and creativity that the SchoolFood team has brought to bear. We look forward to the Council's continued support and cooperation in this effort. Thank you and we look forward to answering any questions you may have.

Submission to the New York City Council  
Committee on Education

IN THE RECORD

Regarding Breakfast in the Classroom and  
Int. 0773-2015: Mandating School Meal Participation Reporting

By the United Federation of Teachers  
January 25, 2016

The United Federation of Teachers (UFT) wishes to thank Chairman Danny Dromm and the members of the Education Committee for the opportunity to share our views on ensuring that our city's children receive high-quality, nutritious meals in school and bringing greater public oversight to school meal participation.

The union has supported the Breakfast in the Classroom pilot since its launch in 2008. This program is designed to address the critical need for our students to have a well-balanced diet and a healthy start to the learning day. We likewise support the City Council's proposed Int. 0773, which will foster transparency by requiring the DOE to give a thorough account of the schools and students participating in meal programs, including breakfast, after-school snacks, supper and grab-and-go cart meals.

Everyone knows that all children need a satisfying and nutritious breakfast to succeed in school. We know that, unfortunately, many children do not receive a nutritious meal at home, often enough because there's not enough money. As advocates for children, we can't ignore that during the 2013-14 school year, about 75,000, or 7%, of NYC's public school students lived in homeless shelters or the home of a friend or family member, another factor in accessing affordable or healthy food.

According to the Food and Research Action Center's Child Nutrition Fact Sheet, children who arrive at school without a proper breakfast exhibit impaired learning ability. They are "less able to distinguish among similar images, show increased errors and have slower recall." Alternatively, children who receive nutritious breakfasts demonstrate increased performance. They perform better on standardized tests, show improved speed and memory in cognitive tests, handle demanding mental tasks in a more facile manner and react better in frustrating situations.

As we've said in prior testimony, a significant value of the all-inclusive in-classroom breakfast model is there is no delineation between students and a family's ability to pay. It is our hope that the disaggregated reporting proposed in Int. 0773 will further substantiate our beliefs and provide greater insight as to what the DOE can do to change any aspect of its meal program that warrants improvements.

Feeding families and children in our city must remain a top priority. According to the fact sheet on its website, Food Bank NYC indicates that more than 1.3 million NYC residents, or 16.5%, are food insecure. The statistics for children are sobering, as approximately 339,000 of the city's

children, or approximately one-fifth of the population of children, depend on soup kitchens and food pantries for meals.

But while we will always support efforts to ensure that our students are properly fed, we also understand that in order to succeed, these programs must be properly planned, educators must be properly trained, and schools must have the proper resources. Unfortunately, despite the best of intentions, there have been problems with the DOE's rollout of the Breakfast in the Classroom program. All of us have heard some of the complaints and have read stories in the media – food that's brought to the classroom still frozen, or past its expiration date. Although isolated, these are problems that are still taking place and need to be addressed.

Bigger picture, it should be noted that while the Office of Food Services has been very collaborative and accommodating throughout this rollout process, only 10% of principals have utilized the available training or workshops that are being provided for schools. That has led to a lot of unnecessary problems along the way.

It's also a much more complicated process than most people believe. It's messy, and providing teachers with just a towel is not enough when you have sticky substances like orange juice and jelly on all the desks. It's also time-consuming, taking far more than the 10-15 minutes that it's supposed to take. Teachers assigned to the younger grades spend a great deal of time just helping each student open the packaging on their breakfasts without spilling them all over the floor. When you consider the size of some of our classes – 25 or more students – you begin to get the picture.

What's more, schools participating in the Breakfast for the Classroom program have lost the ability to provide hot breakfasts to the children who are dropped off at school early. That's because schools in the program are no longer allowed to serve hot meals in the cafeteria before the students are allowed up to their classrooms. It's a 30+ minute gap that should be addressed.

Due to the complaints we have received, we have gone the extra step and developed an online assistance form that enables our members to request our help and to intervene when there are issues at the school level with these programs. Additionally, we list one of our health and safety staffers on the union's website who is assigned to directly field concerns.

Again, we fully support the Breakfast in the Classroom program, as well as others that address the needs of our students. The goal of the program should be full participation, especially for the neediest students. That said, if we truly want this program to succeed, our teachers need better training and support. Thank you.

###



FOR THE RECORD

**MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT- Int. No. 773-  
In relation to requiring the Department of Education to provide  
data related to student participation of free meals in school.**

President  
**Ernest A. Logan**

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212/ 823-2020 **Tel**  
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[www.csa-nyc.org](http://www.csa-nyc.org)

The Council of School Supervisors and Administrators (CSA) strongly support Int. No. 773 because it will add to the transparency the public demands in monitoring how our tax money is being spent.

Int. No.773 will go a long way in providing detail that is necessary to evaluating and improving vital programs which nourish our students. The public has a right to know the total number of students being served breakfast, disaggregated by the total number of students served in the classroom, and the total number of students served via grab and go carts. In addition, similar data must be reviewed relative to the number of schools that provide a salad bar, students receiving a lunch, students served snacks after school, and the total number of students served after school supper.

Furthermore, the report needs to include next steps the DOE is taking to increase students' participation in each of the programs, and there needs to be a comparative study annually to appraise the effectiveness of our school food nutrition efforts.

Finally, in disaggregating this data, it should include disaggregation by school, community school district, city council district, borough, race, ethnicity, and the number of students in Title 1 schools. With this information in hand, we are confident that student participation will increase dramatically, resulting in more of our students being properly nourished during their school experience.

We applaud the City Council for not only recognizing the need to provide this vital data, but actually taking steps to implement a plan which will improve student participation rates, and help students in need get the nutrition they deserve.



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

1 Centre Street, 19th floor, New York, NY 10007  
(212) 669-8300 p (212) 669-4306 f  
163 West 125th Street, 5th floor, New York, NY 10027  
(212) 531-1609 p (212) 531-4615 f  
[www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov](http://www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov)

Gale A. Brewer, Borough President

Testimony of Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
on Intro 773A in relation to student participation data in free school meals  
January 25, 2016

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My name is Gale A. Brewer and I am the Manhattan Borough President. Thank you to Chair Dromm and to the Members on the Committee on Education for the opportunity to testify.

Today I would like to voice my support of Int 773A, which would require the New York City Department of Education to submit an annual report to the Speaker of the City Council regarding the provision of free meals at public schools. According to Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap 2015 study, 15.3% of New York County's population of 1.6 million struggle with food insecurity. With 71% living below 200% poverty, a majority of Manhattanites are likely eligible for Federal Nutrition Assistance including free school meals ([http://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/our-research/map-the-meal-gap/2013/NY\\_AllCounties\\_CDs\\_MMG\\_2013.pdf](http://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/our-research/map-the-meal-gap/2013/NY_AllCounties_CDs_MMG_2013.pdf)).

The Department of Education is making real strides in improving the school food experience - as an advocate of increased agency procurement of locally sourced products, I am especially a big fan of New York Thursdays, which highlights NY State produce and dairy. In addition, the Council and Administration deserve much credit for funding the expansion of the Universal School Meal (USM) program in middle schools. Simply put - when children are hungry, they cannot learn. USM has registered success in the increasing numbers of children eating at school, and it's essential for New York City to expand this program in all schools to narrow the meal gap that persists throughout the five boroughs.

As the sponsor of the City's Open Data Law, I am a firm believer in the importance of data transparency and the essential role that data plays in helping electeds, academics, advocates and stakeholders in shaping informed and engaged public policy. The report mandated in Int 773A would provide insight into the successes for bridging food access, as well as identifying the challenges left to overcome.

I would like to recommend that the bill be amended to also include participation in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). While the summer meals sites are not exclusively located in school buildings, the program is operated by the DOE and

therefore it shouldn't be a hardship to also include information from the sites located at NYCHA developments, parks, recreation centers and pools.

Related, I request that the Education Committee consider Int 461-2014, which I am proud to have introduced with my friend and colleague Council Member Jimmy Vacca. This bill would require the NYC Department of Education to widely publicize summer meal site information by June 1 of each year. Many of the food advocates here today, who are tireless in their efforts, will tell you that one of the main reasons parents routinely identify for not participating in the completely free summer meal program is that they don't know where to go with their children. For the past two years, my office has designed and distributed colorful fliers with specific meal site information for each Manhattan Community School District. These fliers, in English, Spanish, Chinese and Arabic were then distributed to schools, libraries, parks, NYCHA developments and senior centers by my staff and volunteers while school was still in session. Two years ago the DOE released this information during the first week of June, but subsequently the information was released - frankly speaking - too little and too late.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today.



# Free summer meals for kids!

# LOCATIONS

# in East Harlem

*For all kids 18 years and younger; children do NOT need to show registration, documentation, or an ID to receive their meals.*

*Sites listed current as of 6/2/2015 but subject to change.*

*Find out more by calling 311, texting NYCMeals to 877-877, or visiting [www.schoolfoodnyc.org](http://www.schoolfoodnyc.org) or SchoolFood App.*

## **P.S. 50 Vito Marcantonio**

433 East 100th St.  
Breakfast 8:00-9:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
Lunch 11:00-1:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
6/29 thru 9/4

## **Thomas Jefferson Pool**

2180 1st Ave. @ 112th St.  
Breakfast 9:00-10:00  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr,Sa,Su  
Lunch 12:00-3:00  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr,Sa,Su  
6/27 thru 9/4

## **NYCHA-Carver**

1481 Madison Ave., 1st Floor  
Breakfast 9:30-10:30  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
Lunch 12:30-1:30  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
7/7 thru 8/27

## **P.S. 171 Patrick Henry**

19 East 103rd St.  
Breakfast 8:00-9:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
Lunch 11:00-1:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
6/29 thru 9/4

## **Wagner Pool**

124th St. Btwn 1st & 2nd Ave.  
Breakfast 9:00-10:00  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr,Sa,Su  
Lunch 12:00-1:00  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr,Sa,Su  
6/27 thru 9/4

## **NYCHA-George Washington**

1955 2nd Ave. Btwn 100rd & 101st, Community Room  
Breakfast 9:30-10:30  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
Lunch 12:30-1:30  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
7/7 thru 8/27

**Gale A. Brewer**  
Manhattan Borough President



[www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov](http://www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov)

1 Centre Street, 19th Floor, New York, NY 10007  
(212) 669-8300

District 4

Comidas gratis de verano para niños!

# LUGARES en East Harlem

*Todos los niños menores de 18 años; no necesitan mostrar, documentación, o una identificación para recibir comida.  
Sitios que figuran en la lista de fecha 6/2/2015 pero que están a cambio.  
Para más información llama al 311, o envío de mensajes de texto NYCMeals a 877-877, o visitar [schoolfoodnyc.com](http://schoolfoodnyc.com) o *SchoolFood App*.*

## **P.S. 50 Vito Marcantonio**

433 East 100th St.  
Desayuno 8:00-9:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
Almuerzo 11:00-1:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
6/29-9/4

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Almuerzo 12:30-1:30  
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7/7-8/27

**Gale A. Brewer**  
Presidente del Condado de Manhattan



[www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov](http://www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov)  
1 Centre Street, 19th Floor, New York, NY 10007  
(212) 669-8300

# 免費兒童暑期營養早午餐!

## 下城、中城和上東城地區就餐地點

所有18歲以下孩子都符合資格; 兒童領取餐點不需要登記,  
不需要提供身份證和任何文件

至2015年6月2日, 就餐地點如下所列, 但有變動可能

欲知詳情, 請致電311,

或發短信至紐約市營養計劃877-877,

或者登錄網站[schoolfoodnyc.org](http://schoolfoodnyc.org).

### **P.S. 2 Meyer London**

122 Henry St.

早餐 8:00-9:00

週一、週二、週三、週四、週五

午餐 1:00-1:30

週一、週二、週三、週四、週五

6/29 至 9/4

### **P.S. 42 Benjamin Altman**

71 Hester St.

早餐 8:00-9:15

週一、週二、週三、週四、週五

午餐 11:00-1:15

週一、週二、週三、週四、週五

6/29 至 9/4

### **P.S. 111 Adolph S. Ochs**

440 West 53rd St.

早餐 8:00-9:15

週一、週二、週三、週四、週五

午餐 11:00-1:15

週一、週二、週三、週四、週五

6/29 至 9/4

### **NYC Parks-St. Catherine's Park**

East 67th St. & 1st Ave.

只提供午餐 12:00-1:00

週二、週三、週四、週五

7/7 至 8/21

### **P.S. 124 Yung Wing**

40 Division St.

早餐 8:00-9:15

週一、週二、週三、週四、週五

午餐 11:00-1:15

週一、週二、週三、週四、週五

6/29 至 8/14

### **P.S. 126 Jacob August Riis**

80 Catherine St.

早餐 8:00-9:00

週一、週二、週三、週四、週五

午餐 12:00-1:00

週一、週二、週三、週四、週五

6/29 至 9/4

### **P.S. 130 Hernando De Soto**

143 Baxter St.

早餐 8:00-9:15

週一、週二、週三、週四、週五

午餐 11:00-1:15

週一、週二、週三、週四、週五

7/6 至 8/21

### **P.S./I.S. 217 Roosevelt Island**

645 Main St.

早餐 8:00-9:15

週一、週二、週三、週四、週五

午餐 11:00-1:15

週一、週二、週三、週四、週五

6/29 至 9/4

### **Vesuvio Pool**

Thompson St. Btwn Spring & Prince St.

只提供午餐 12:00-1:00

週一、週二、週三、週四、週五

6/29 至 9/4

### **Asser Levy Pool**

392 Asser Levy Place @ 23 St.

早餐 9:00-10:00

週一、週二、週三、週四、

週五、週六、週日

午餐 12:00-1:00

週一、週二、週三、週四、

週五、週六、週日

6/27 至 9/4

### **NYCHA-Straus**

344 East 28<sup>th</sup> St.

早餐 9:30-10:30

週一、週二、週三、週四、週五

午餐 12:30-1:30

週一、週二、週三、週四、週五

7/7 至 8/27

### **NYCHA-Holmes Towers**

1780 1st Ave. Btwn East 92nd & 93rd St.

早餐 9:30-10:30

週一、週二、週三、週四、週五

午餐 12:30-1:30

週一、週二、週三、週四、週五

7/7 至 8/27

### **Tony Dapolito Rec Ctr & Pool**

Clarkson St. & 7th Ave. South

早餐 9:00-10:00

週一、週二、週三、週四、

週五、週六、週日

午餐 12:00-1:00

週一、週二、週三、週四、

週五、週六、週日

6/27 至 8/29

### **John Jay Pool**

E. 77th St. & Cherokee Place

早餐 9:00-10:00

週一、週二、週三、週四、

週五、週六、週日

午餐 12:00-1:00

週一、週二、週三、週四、

週五、週六、週日

6/27 至 9/4

### **M.S. 131**

100 Hester St.

早餐 8:00-9:15

週一、週二、週三、週四、週五

午餐 10:45-1:15

週一、週二、週三、週四、週五

6/29 至 9/4

布魯爾  
曼哈頓區長



[www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov](http://www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov)

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District 2



# Free summer meals for kids!

# LOCATIONS

## Downtown, Midtown, Upper East Side

*For all kids 18 years and younger; children do NOT need to show registration, documentation, or an ID to receive their meals.*

*Sites listed current as of 6/2/2015 but subject to change.*

*Find out more by calling 311, texting NYCMeals to 877-877, or visiting [schoolfoodnyc.org](http://schoolfoodnyc.org) or SchoolFood App.*

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6/29 thru 9/4

**P.S. 111 Adolph S. Ochs**

440 West 53 St.  
Breakfast 8:00-9:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
Lunch 11:00-1:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
6/29 thru 9/4

**P.S. 124 Yung Wing**

40 Division St.  
Breakfast 8:00-9:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
Lunch 11:00-1:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
6/29 thru 8/14

**P.S. 126 Jacob August Riis**

80 Catherine St.  
Breakfast 8:00-9:00  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
Lunch 12:00-1:00  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
6/29 thru 9/4

**P.S. 130 Hernando De Soto**

143 Baxter St.  
Breakfast 8:00-9:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
Lunch 11:00-1:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
7/6 thru 8/21

**P.S./I.S. 217 Roosevelt Island**

645 Main St.  
Breakfast 8:00-9:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
Lunch 11:00-1:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
6/29 thru 9/4

**St. Catherine's Park**

East 67th St. & 1st Ave.  
Lunch only 12:00-1:00  
Tu,We,Th,Fr  
7/7 thru 8/21

**Tony Dapolito Rec Ctr & Pool**

Clarkson St. & 7th Ave. South  
Breakfast 9:00-10:00  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr,Sa,Su  
Lunch 12:00-1:00  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr,Sa,Su  
6/27 thru 8/29

**John Jay Pool**

East 77th St. & Cherokee Place  
Breakfast 9:00-10:00  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr,Sa,Su  
Lunch 12:00-1:00  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr,Sa,Su  
6/27 thru 9/4

**Vesuvio Pool**

Thompson St. Btwn Spring & Prince St.  
Lunch only 12:00-1:00  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
6/29 thru 9/4

**Asser Levy Pool**

392 Asser Levy Place @ 23rd St.  
Breakfast 9:00-10:00  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr,Sa,Su  
Lunch 12:00-1:00  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr,Sa,Su  
6/27 thru 9/4

**M.S. 131**

100 Hester St.  
Breakfast 8:00-9:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
Lunch 10:45-1:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
6/29 thru 9/4

**NYCHA-Straus**

344 East 28th St.  
Breakfast 9:30-10:30  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
Lunch 12:30-1:30  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
7/7 thru 8/27

**NYCHA-Holmes Towers**

1780 1st Ave. Btwn East 92nd & 93rd St.  
Breakfast 9:30-10:30  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
Lunch 12:30-1:30  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
7/7 thru 8/27

**Gale A. Brewer**  
Manhattan Borough President



[www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov](http://www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov)

1 Centre Street, 19th Floor, New York, NY 10007  
(212) 669-8300

District 2

# Comidas gratis de verano para niños!

# LUGARES en Inwood & Washington Heights

*Todos los niños menores de 18 años; no necesitan mostrar, documentación, o una identificación para recibir comida. Sitios que figuran en la lista de fecha 6/2/2015 pero que están a cambio.*

*Para más información llama al 311, o envío de mensajes de texto NYCMeals a 877-877,*

*o visitar [schoolfoodnyc.org](http://schoolfoodnyc.org) o SchoolFood App.*

**P.S. 5 Ellen Lurie**

3703 10th Ave.  
Desayuno 8:00-9:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
Almuerzo 11:00-1:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
6/29-8/21

**P.S. 48 P.O. Michael J.**

**Buczek**  
4360-78 Broadway @  
162nd St.  
Desayuno 8:00-9:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
Almuerzo 11:00-1:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
6/29-8/14

**P.S. 128 Audubon**

560 West 169th St. Btwn  
Audubon & St. Nicholas  
Aves.  
Desayuno 8:00-9:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
Almuerzo 11:00-01:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
6/29-8/21

**P.S. 189**

2580 Amsterdam Ave.  
Btwn 188th & 189th St.  
Desayuno 8:00-9:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
Almuerzo 11:00-1:00  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
6/29-9/4

**I.S. 218 Salomé Ureña**

4600 Broadway by 196th St.  
Desayuno 8:00-9:30  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
Almuerzo 11:00-1:45  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
6/29-8/14

**M.S. 319 Maria Teresa**

21 Jumel Place @ 168th St.  
Desayuno 7:40-9:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
Almuerzo 11:00-1:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
6/29-8/28

**P.S. 278 Paula Hedbavny  
School**

421 West 219th St.  
Desayuno 8:00-9:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
Almuerzo 11:00-1:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
7/6-8/21

**M346 Community Health  
Academy of the Heights**

504 West 158th St.  
Desayuno 8:00-9:00  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
Almuerzo 11:30-12:30  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
6/29-9/4

**Highbridge Pool**

2301 Amsterdam Ave. &  
173rd St.  
Desayuno 8:15-9:00  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr,Sa,Su  
Almuerzo 12:00-1:00  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr,Sa,Su  
6/27-9/4

**NYC Parks-J. Hood  
Wright Park**

173rd St. & Ft. Washington Ave.  
Solamente almuerzo 12:00-  
1:00  
Tu,We,Th,Fr  
7/7-8/21

**NYCHA-Dyckman**

3782 10th Ave., 1st Floor  
Comm. Room  
Desayuno 9:30-10:30  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
Almuerzo 12:30-1:30  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
7/7-8/27

## Gale A. Brewer

Presidente del Condado de Manhattan



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# Free summer meals for kids!

# LOCATIONS

## in Washington Heights & Inwood

*For all kids 18 years and younger; children do NOT need to show registration, documentation, or an ID to receive their meals.*

*Sites listed current as of 6/2/2015 but subject to change.*

*Find out more by calling 311, texting NYCMeals to 877-8777, or visiting [schoolfoodnyc.org](http://schoolfoodnyc.org) or SchoolFood App.*

### **P.S. 5 Ellen Lurie**

3703 10th Ave.  
Breakfast 8:00-9:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
Lunch 11:00-1:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
6/29 thru 8/21

### **P.S. 48 P.O. Michael J.**

**Buczek**  
4360-78 Broadway @  
162nd St.  
Breakfast 8:00-9:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
Lunch 11:00-1:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
6/29 thru 8/14

### **P.S. 128 Audubon**

560 West 169th St. Btwn  
Audubon & St. Nicholas  
Ave.  
Breakfast 8:00-9:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
Lunch 11:00-01:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
6/29 thru 8/21

### **P.S. 189**

2580 Amsterdam Ave.  
Btwn 188th & 189th St.  
Breakfast 8:00-9:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
Lunch 11:00-1:00  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
6/29 thru 9/4

### **I.S. 218 Salomé Ureña**

4600 Broadway by 196th St.  
Breakfast 8:00-9:30  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
Lunch 11:00-1:45  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
6/29 thru 8/14

### **M.S. 319 Maria Teresa**

21 Jumel Place @ 168th St.  
Breakfast 7:40-9:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
Lunch 11:00-1:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
6/29 thru 8/28

### **P.S. 278 Paula Hedbavny School**

421 West 219th St.  
Breakfast 8:00-9:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
Lunch 11:00-1:15  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
7/6 thru 8/21

### **M346 Community Health Academy of the Heights**

504 West 158th St.  
Breakfast 8:00-9:00  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
Lunch 11:30-12:30  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
6/29 thru 9/4

### **Highbridge Pool**

2301 Amsterdam Ave. &  
173rd St.  
Breakfast 8:15-9:00  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr,Sa,Su  
Lunch 12:00-1:00  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr,Sa,Su  
6/27 thru 9/4

### **NYC Parks-J. Hood Wright Park**

173rd St. & Ft. Washington Ave.  
Lunch only 12:00-1:00  
Tu,We,Th,Fr  
7/7 thru 8/21

### **NYCHA-Dyckman**

3782 10th Ave., 1st Floor  
Comm. Room  
Breakfast 9:30-10:30  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
Lunch 12:30-1:30  
Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr  
7/7 thru 8/27

**Gale A. Brewer**  
Manhattan Borough President



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(212) 669-8300

District 6



Testimony of David DeVaughn, Manager, Policy & Government Relations  
New York City Council Hearing of the  
Committee on Education  
January 25, 2016

Int. No. 773

Good morning Chairperson Dromm and members of the committee. My name is David DeVaughn and I am the Manager of Policy and Government Relations at City Harvest. Thank you for holding this hearing today and for the opportunity to provide comments to Intro 773 and more broadly to the topic of school meals.

We are incredibly fortunate to have one of, if not the best school food programs in the country. The programs ability to feed New York City's public school children with high quality food, and to do so while incorporating new programs and practices is nothing short of astonishing. To also consider that nearly 75% of New York City's students qualify for free or reduced price meals, makes the feat even more commendable when we consider that nearly 1 in 4 kids in this city comes from food insecure households.

Over the last decade, the Department of Education has incorporated strategies aimed at increasing the participation in meal programs, especially breakfast. More than 10 years ago, former Mayor Bloomberg made the breakfast program free to all students, yet participation is still lower than it should be. Breakfast after the bell, and Breakfast in the Classroom are examples, but they have not been instituted widely enough to dramatically improve the city's participation rate.

While City Harvest supports the intent behind intro 773, we are aware of the challenges inherent in the system as well as the language in Intro 773 that could stand in the way of achieving the goal. After school snacks and supper are not under the jurisdiction of SchoolFood and should be removed from the bill. Additionally, the menus for schools are provided on the DOEs website. The number of schools that have salad bars in their cafeteria is provided in the city's annual Food Metrics report. Further, I have found that when data related to school meal participation is requested, School Food replies to the request, even without being legislated to do so. With more than 1200 schools in the city, I am concerned that it could be incredibly burdensome and inefficient for schools, whether its teachers or school food staff to undertake the extent of reporting this legislation is suggesting.

We encourage the Council to work with the advocacy community to get answers from the Department of Education about why more schools aren't adopting the strategies to increase meal participation, whether it's breakfast in the classroom, which is determined at the school level, or increasing the number and type of schools who are permitted to participate in Universal School Meals. Specifically, the standalone middle school universal free school lunch program that was instituted this fiscal year. Through it, participation in lunch has increased, but not enough to impress Mayor de Blasio. What is enough? What is the rationale for enough? What would success look like and how can we plan for expansion of the program? What steps has DOE central/Tweed made to publicize the expansion, with principals, teachers,



parents, and students? And, what is the Department's plan to encourage participation in school meals for high school students?

City Harvest, along with many here today, are interested in making sure that as many students possible have easy access to the quality school meals that SchoolFood provides. That is the intent of Intro 773 as well.

Again, thank you for your attention to these urgent matters and for all your work on to improve the lives and conditions of low-income New Yorkers.

David DeVaughn, MPA  
Manager, Policy and Government Relations  
[ddevaughn@cityharvest.org](mailto:ddevaughn@cityharvest.org)



## **Testimony Before the New York City Council Committee on Education**

**Liz Accles, Executive Director, Community Food Advocates  
January 25, 2016**

### **Int. No. 773 - In relation to requiring the department of education to provide data related student participation in free meals in school.**

Chairman Dromm and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

We are pleased that the Council and the Committee are taking great interest and leadership in strengthening New York City's school based child nutrition programs. For too long the assumption has been that these programs are being utilized to the full extent that they are needed, but as advocates for child nutrition programs we know that is far from reality. These programs provide a foundation for the education, health and well-being of students. Thank you, Councilmember Kallos for bringing daylight to this issue.

#### **The strengths of the bill include:**

- Reports on steps Department of Education takes to increase participation in breakfast and for information on special initiatives.
- Reports on breakfast participation by identifying "breakfast after the bell" programs from traditional cafeteria programs, and reporting data by school. This can help strengthen the roll out of "breakfast after the bell".

#### **Requested changes to the bill:**

- Section "b." numbers 1-5. We believe that the request for information from DOE should be changed to read "Average daily number of students served", instead of total number of students served. This will provide a picture of how many students actually participate per day.

- Also, note that the request for food items offered in (b) 6. is already available on SchoolFood's website which provides monthly menus for all their programs.
- According to our observations over the years, items in salad bars vary from school to school, depending on local preferences, availability of items, and staffing limitations.
- Section "c." Measuring participation in after-school lunch and dinner programs should be measured by the number of students attending the programs. For your consideration, increasing participation in after school snack and supper programs is not under the jurisdiction of SchoolFood. They provide the food, but not all afterschool programs are run by the Department of Education, and they don't control their enrollment.
- Section "d." To our knowledge, food program participation data are not aggregated by race or ethnicity.

**Lunch information:** Although we know that Intro 773 does not include universal free school lunch, we believe it would be helpful to have the following information about the middle school implementation to ensure maximum participation:

- Report on initiatives to increase participation in lunch, particularly in schools under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP);
- Report on the Impact of CEP on Title I funds in those schools, e.g. whether there has been a change in allocation or eligibility for these funds since CEP;



## Benefits of Expanding Universal Free School Lunch to High School and Elementary Schools Under Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

### *First Year Projections*

**Benefit #1:** **More students eating lunch each school day**

- Projected increase of 47,000 additional elementary and high school students eating lunch each school day

**Benefit #2:** **Significant financial relief to families throughout NYC**

- \$900 in annual financial relief to families per child\*
- Total of \$42.3 million in financial relief to families

**Benefit #3:** **Increased reimbursements for NYC**

- City would receive \$22.6 million in additional federal and state reimbursements

**Benefit #4:** **More jobs created**

- Increased school lunch participation would create 376 new jobs

**Cost to NYC:** **An additional \$3.6 million per year**

Total cost for additional lunches (\$26.2 million) –  
Total federal & state reimbursement for additional lunches (\$22.6 million) =  
Gap to be filled by NYC (\$3.6 million)

*Analysis on back: Participation and cost projections based on actual first year middle school student Community Eligibility Participation.*

*\*((\$5 average value per meal) Based on the Robin Hood Foundation estimates for cost per meal for a substantial main meal for low income consumers. Explanation: Their \$5 estimated value of a meal is based on the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimate for the average cost of food for low-income consumers, and is increased to reflect the cost of living in New York City using the method found in the SelfSufficiency Standard for the City of New York 2004 (Pearce, 2004).*

Method of Analysis: Participation and Cost Projections based on actual first year middle school student CEP participation.

**First year Middle School Universal Free Lunch Implementation (CEP Schools Only 2014-15 school year)**

5,500<sup>1</sup> additional students eating lunch daily or 992,884 additional meals served (+7.5% over prior year)

(a) Total additional cost for food and labor for additional lunches served @ \$3.10/meal<sup>2</sup>  
= \$3.08 million

(b) Total new federal and state revenue (reimbursement) to NYC under CEP for additional lunches served @ \$2.68 average reimbursement/ for each meal<sup>3</sup>  
= \$2.66 million

**(c) Gap between federal and state reimbursements and cost of providing the meals =  
Additional cost to New York City = \$0.42 million**

(d) Additional jobs created = 44  
(125 meals = 1 staff person: 5,500/125 = 44)

**Tailored Projections for Elementary and High Schools: First Year CEP Implementation**

Projected Elementary Schools participation level: 30,000 additional children eating lunch each day (8.6% increase in participation) would reflect 80% of attending children.<sup>4</sup>

Projected High School participation level: 17,000 additional students eating lunch each day (19.9% increase in participation) would reflect 42.7% of attending students.

Total projected daily increase in student participation 47,000 students, or 8,460,000 additional lunches served per year.

(a) Total additional cost for food and labor for additional lunches served @\$3.10/meal (see fn 2)  
= \$26.2 million

(b) Total new federal and state revenue (reimbursement) to NYC under CEP for additional lunches served @2.68/ average reimbursement for each meal (see fn 3)  
= \$22.6 million

**(c) Gap between federal and state reimbursements and cost of providing the meals =  
Additional cost to New York City = \$3.6 million**

(c) Additional jobs created = 376  
(125 meals = 1 staff person: 47,000/125 = 376)

---

<sup>1</sup> In 2014-15 school year there was an average increase of 7,300 additional middle school students eating lunch every day, including 5,500 students in CEP participating schools

<sup>2</sup> Cost per lunch from NYC Office of SchoolFood, Oct. 2015

<sup>3</sup> Average lunch reimbursement. Data from NYC Office of SchoolFood, Oct. 2015

<sup>4</sup> Projected elementary school participation assumes expansion of USL to all grades and a significant publicity effort



## **TITLE I AND UNIVERSAL FREE SCHOOL LUNCH: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Question: Are Universal Free School Lunch and Title I both funded through the U.S. Department of Education?**

**Answer:** No. School Food and Title I are administered by two different federal agencies and are tied to two separate funding streams. Title I funds are federal education funds provided to NYC by the U.S. Department of Education; the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides NYC with school lunch reimbursement funds.

**Question: Does information gathered from school lunch forms determine the amount of federal Title I funding that New York City receives?**

**Answer:** No. NYC receives a set amount of Title I funding under formulas developed by the Federal government. This amount is determined based on census data regarding the number of children living in poverty in the school district – *not* information gathered from school meal application forms.

**Question: Why do I keep hearing that school lunch forms impact my school's Title I funds?**

**Answer:** Once the City receives federal Title I funds from the U.S. Department of Education it must use a measure of poverty to decide how to distribute those Title I funds among schools. At present, NYC gathers that data from school meals application forms. In middle schools with universal free school lunch under the federal Community Eligibility Provision (CEP household income is collected through alternative income forms.

**Question: What is the connection between Universal Free School Lunch and Title I data collection as it is currently structured?**

**Answer:** Universal Free School Lunch under the federal CEP bars the use of school lunch forms in an effort to reduce paperwork and eliminate the income-based stigma of the traditional school lunch program. For Title I distribution purposes there are several alternate options to measure family income and poverty rates. In January 2014, the federal Department of Education provided guidance to school districts informing them that they may identify schools' Title I eligibility through the following methods: direct certification (computer matches that identify the number of families receiving public benefits, etc.), Census poverty estimates, state or local income surveys, or

alternative income forms. NYC decided to use an alternative income form that contains much of the same information as the traditional school lunch form in CEP middle schools.

**Question: Which cities are providing Universal Free School Lunch and how are they measuring income for Title I distribution purposes?**

**Answer:** Many other cities have implemented universal using CEP and have used the above mentioned methods to measure student poverty rates for Title I allocation purposes in absence of school lunch forms.

They include: Chicago, IL; Boston, MA; Philadelphia, PA; Baltimore, MD; Dallas, TX; Detroit, MI; Milwaukee, WI; Pittsburgh, PA; Birmingham, Ala; Mobile, AL; Montgomery, AL, Jackson, MS; Kansas City, MO; Springfield, MA; Akron, OH; Dayton, OH; District of Columbia; Nashville, TN; Buffalo, NY; Hempstead, NY; Poughkeepsie, NY; Rochester, NY; Syracuse, NY.

**Question: Universal was instituted in NYC's stand-alone (6-8<sup>th</sup> grade) middle schools in the 2014-2015 school year. Has there been an impact on Title I funding in middle schools?**

**Answer:** There has been no reported impact on Title I allocations.

Last year, stand-alone middle schools used an alternative income form that is similar to the traditional school lunch form to collect family income information. Forms were returned at similar rates as in previous years.

Testimony of Janet Poppendieck, Ph.D., on Int 0773-2015: a bill to require the Department of Education to provided data related to student participation in school meals.

January 25, 2016

At the CUNY School of Public Health, we recognize that nutritious food is essential to health, and that school food programs can and do play a vital role in shaping the health of our children and youth. For those who participate, they provide balanced meals and displace the consumption of less healthy alternatives. For those who fail to participate, they provide nothing at all. Further, federal reimbursements are directly tied to participation. Thus participation is the key to both program effectiveness and financial integrity. It certainly makes sense to measure and report participation.

In addition, as public health and social science researchers, we understand the value of local data to assess local well-being. By providing additional data on participation in school food programs, the proposed measure would offer community leaders, parents and nutrition advocates additional evidence to inform policies and programs to reduce food insecurity and diet-related diseases.

The current bill would enhance and extend the reporting that already takes place. We believe that some of the reports required are already covered by the food metrics law and the regular posting of menus, and we urge the Committee to focus on those additional types of reporting that are not elsewhere available, and to give serious consideration to balancing the costs (in time and energy) of additional reporting with the benefits to be derived.

For our work, the most useful components of the bill would be two:

1) the requirement that data on participation be available at the school and school district level. The ability to compare schools with each other readily, and to compare individual schools and neighborhood clusters with school district and citywide norms, would empower local organizations seeking to improve healthy food access in neighborhoods, and as you are aware, there is a great deal of such work going on in neighborhoods around New York City.

2) the requirement that the Department of Education report on steps taken to increase participation in various innovations such as breakfast after the bell and salad bars.

Any such required reporting **must include lunch**. As we understand it, the omission of lunch from this bill reflects a matter of City Council protocol, but this is a deficit that must be remedied if this bill is to achieve its potential for improving access to school food. Part of the reason that we need this bill is that the DOE has referred to the provision of universally free school lunches as a “pilot program” but has reported no research or analysis that would aid in assessing the success of the pilot. It has been difficult to obtain



information about what the Department of Education is doing to promote this vital program.

The bill also asks for reporting of data on items offered on salad bars and in the three breakfast formats: cafeteria breakfast, grab and go breakfast, and classroom breakfast. We are wondering if some other form of data collection and reporting, perhaps use of photography, might reduce the burden of extensive data input.

Finally, a note on an alternate approach. We all know that school principals face a nearly infinite list of tasks and priorities in need of their time and attention. In order for school food participation to compete successfully for this scarce commodity, we believe that rates of participation in school meal programs should be one of the metrics upon which principals are routinely evaluated.

We support these modest but important steps toward improving access to healthy school meals, but we would like to see this work expanded in three significant ways. First, we believe that the most important step toward better school food is citywide universal free provision in all schools, which many Council Members, including Chairman Dromm and Councilmembers Levin and Kallos, have taken the lead in supporting. Second, we think that the effort to make data readily accessible at the neighborhood level should be more broadly applied across city agencies, and finally, we believe that the effort to provide healthy food through schools should be complemented by a requirement that all zoning changes should support healthy food retail. We can only really hope to improve the health of New Yorkers through a comprehensive approach that makes the healthy choice the easiest, most affordable, and most readily available.

Janet E. Poppendieck  
Professor Emerita of Sociology at Hunter College  
Co-Founder, NYC Food Policy Center  
Author: *Free for All: Fixing School Food in America.*



**Testimony of Joel Berg, Executive Director  
New York City Coalition Against Hunger**

**Before The New City Council Committee on Education  
Hearing on Int 0773-2015  
January 25, 2016**

I am Joel Berg, Executive Director, at the New York City Coalition Against Hunger. I am testifying on behalf of the city's approximately 1.4 million New Yorkers – including 400,000 children – who live in households that can't afford enough food. I want to first thank Chair Dromm, Councilmember Kallos, and the Education Committee for holding this vital hearing.

**Tracking Successes and Challenges**

Since the implementation of breakfast in the classroom began last October, the New York City Coalition Against Hunger has remained invested in its ongoing success. As one of the anti-hunger groups that advocates for the program, we've spoken with a wide range of stakeholders: students, parents, teachers, principals, cafeteria workers, janitors and building engineers, and union representatives. We've participated in site visits where we've seen breakfast in the classroom in action.

Last October, we visited PS 18 in the South Bronx. Thirty-seven percent of Bronx kids live in households that don't always have enough food, and 93 percent of the PS 18 students are eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch. One of the first schools to roll out in-classroom breakfast, PS 18 is already an example of this program's success. Before breakfast in the classroom began, only about 200 out of 600 students ate in the cafeteria before school. But since PS 18 started to serve in-classroom breakfast as part of the school day, 500 students now start each morning with a healthy meal. At this rate, we predict this school alone will serve over 50,000 more breakfast meals per year than before.

The students at PS 18 clearly love starting their day with breakfast in the classroom. In one of the first grade classrooms, we helped the teacher pass out breakfast to all of her students at their desks. The kids ate together as they listened to morning announcements. On the menu: a whole wheat carrot zucchini mini loaf, a low fat Colby jack cheese stick, and a kid-sized carton of 100% orange juice. There was also whole grain cereal, cartons of milk, and locally-sourced Bartlett pears for those who wanted them. All breakfasts meet or exceed federal nutrition standards. We learned that in the kindergarten class down the hall, if one student decides to eat cereal with milk, then ALL of her classmates also want to eat cereal with milk – a far cry from the stigma that some children used to feel eating in the cafeteria before school.

What we know about the successes and challenges of the breakfast in the classroom rollout, we've learned anecdotally. Greater transparency and sharing of data will make it more possible for diverse

stakeholders to work together with the Department of Education and SchoolFood to ensure the success of not only breakfast in the classroom, but other programs and initiatives, including universal school lunch, afterschool snacks and meals, salad bars, and free summer meals. We'd like to see breakfast after the bell expanded to middle and high school students. Additionally, expanding the service of universal lunch, introduced by the City Council in 2014, from all stand-alone middle schools to all schools should be on the agenda. Last summer, the Department of Education served over 8.1 million free summer meals, more than ever before. However, of the children who depend on free or reduced-price lunch during the school year, only a fraction participate in the summer meals program. The City can redouble its efforts to spread the word about this important program and expand the number of locations where the meals are served in order to ensure that children do not go hungry when school is out.

New York City Coalition Against Hunger is in favor of City Council Bill 773, with amendment and consideration of the following:

New York City is fortunate enough to have one of the most dedicated and effective school food service authorities in the country. They provide over 850,000 nutritious meals each day in 1,700 schools serving 1.1 million students in one of the most ethnically diverse cities on the planet. New York City Coalition Against Hunger enjoys a collegial relationship with School Food and is concerned that requiring an annual report not preclude SchoolFood's willingness and ability to share data more frequently with child nutrition advocates, as it has done in the past. Preparing such a report will require significant staff time, so it is important that SchoolFood is supported with the additional resources and capacity necessary to assemble the information without negatively impacting current operations.

It would be most useful for this report to include school lunch and summer meals in addition to the meals already included in the bill. It is likely not possible to disaggregate the data by race and ethnicity, but when possible, it would be helpful to have "average daily number" of students served disaggregated by paid meals, reduced-price meals, free meals, and free and reduced price meals combined. For summer meals, data could be disaggregated by meals site and type of meals site (as opposed to school).

### **Hunger in New York City**

Food insecurity and hunger remain high throughout New York City, with one in six city residents – including approximately one in five children and one in eight seniors – living in homes that couldn't afford enough food between 2012 and 2014.

In addition, more than 1.7 million New Yorkers, or one in five, lived below the federal poverty line (\$19,790 for a family of three) in 2014, compared to 1.6 million in 2010 – an increase of 100,000 New Yorkers. It is important to note that the official federal poverty measure does not take into account most living costs, so, in high-cost cities like New York, it underestimates the number of people living in impoverished conditions.

Added to this is the reality that nearly half of all working-age New York City residents who can't afford enough food live in households in which at least one person is employed. In 2012-2014, in New York City alone, more than 450,000 residents lived in food insecure households that included at least one working person. In New York City alone, forty-eight percent of all adults between 15 and 65 who were food insecure were employed.

Unfortunately, these increases were compounded by cuts to federal programs designed to assist those most in need as well as decreases in participation in some of those very same programs. Between December 2012 and September 2015, participation in New York City in the Supplemental Nutrition

Assistance Program, or SNAP (formerly the Food Stamp Program) dropped from 1,898,028 to 1,696,174 – a 201,854-person (11 percent) reduction. At the same time, President Barack Obama and Congress cut the average size of SNAP benefits. While Governor Andrew Cuomo was able to take executive action to ameliorate some of that federal cut, much of the reduction was beyond the power of the State or the City, and the average SNAP benefit in New York City declined from \$162 per person per month in December 2012 to about \$148 per person per month in September 2015.

Our most recent Annual Hunger Survey found that 80 percent of New York City’s food pantries and soup kitchens would increase the amount of food they distributed if they received more food, yet nearly a third percent of these agencies suffered from cuts in combined government and private resources.

**Over One in Five New York City Children – Nearly Half a Million – Are Food Insecure**

In 2012-2014, an estimated 403,780 children in New York City lived in food insecure households that did not have an adequate food supply throughout the year. This number represents 22 percent, or over one in five of the city’s youth population. It also represents a nine percent increase from 2006 - 2008, when 369,415 of New York City children lived in food insecure homes.

Brooklyn had the highest number of children in food insecure households, but the Bronx had the highest percentage.

<b>Borough*</b>	<b>Number of Food Insecure Children (2011-2013)</b>
Bronx	120,251
Brooklyn	196,033
Manhattan	57,263
Queens	55,368

<b>Borough*</b>	<b>Percent of Children in Food Insecure Homes (2011-2013)</b>
Bronx	37.17%
Brooklyn	25.54%
Manhattan	24.02%
Queens	11.98%

\*In general, due to sampling issues, the data for percent of people is more accurate than the data for the total number of people food insecure. Note that, given smaller sub-samples for these boroughs and sub-populations, margins of error are higher. Citywide numbers and percentages for child food insecurity include Staten Island, but there is not enough federal food insecurity data for that borough to adequately calculate a borough- specific child food insecurity rate for Staten Island. In 2013, according to the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 18.7 percent of Staten Island children lived in poverty; the food insecurity rate is likely similar.

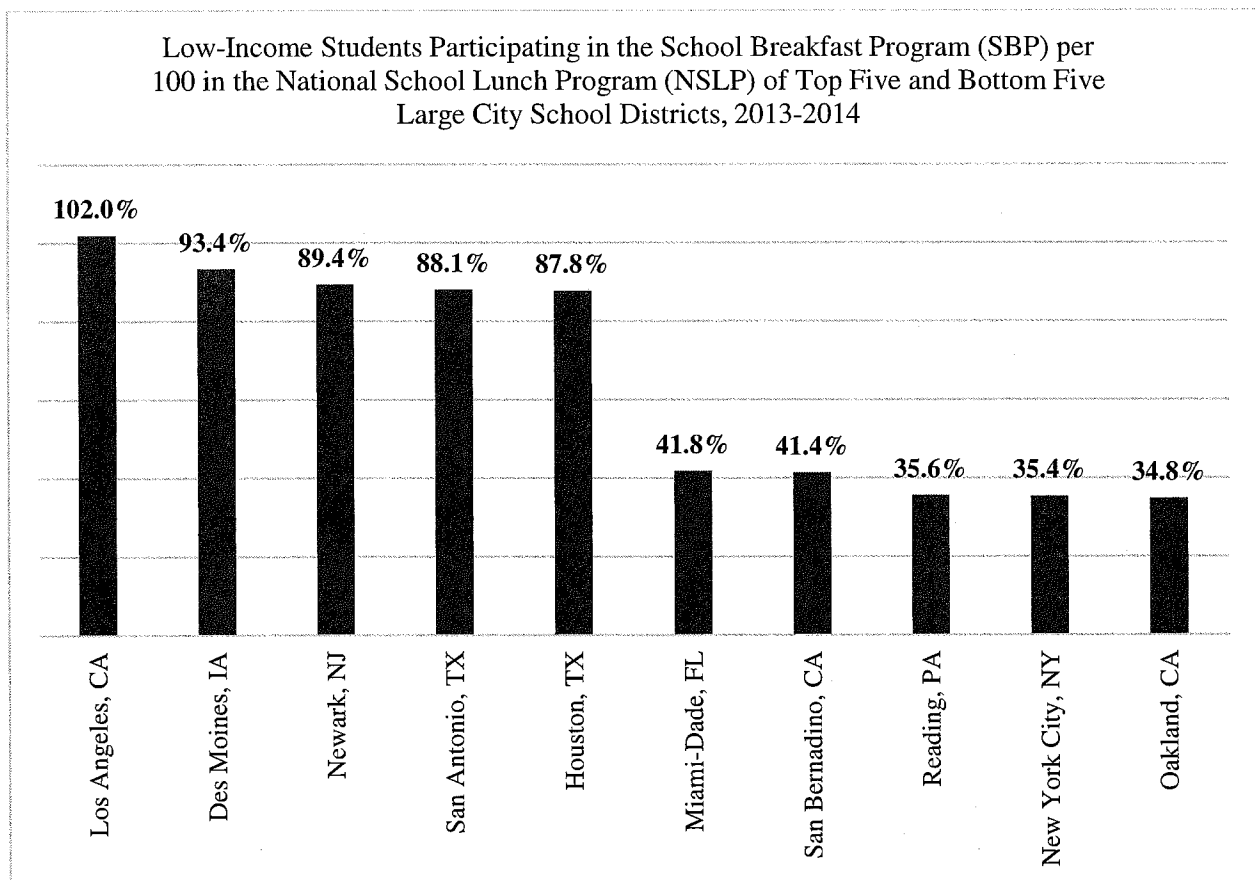
**Breakfast After the Bell is the Best Way to Reduce Child Hunger**

For the one in five children in New York City who live in households that cannot afford enough food, school meals are a critical component to fighting child hunger. New York City has made great strides to get children to eat school meals, but we are still behind.

Last spring, Mayor de Blasio announced the introduction of breakfast after the bell for all stand-alone elementary schools, which serve about 339,000 students. The new policy is a great opportunity to increase the number of students who start the day with a nutritious breakfast, either served in the classroom or via “grab and go.”

With 1 in 5 kids going hungry in New York City and only about 35% of students from low-income families participating in the predominantly cafeteria-style breakfast served before the bell, the introduction of this proven program will decrease hunger for the youngest members of our society. As breakfast participation expands as a result of breakfast in the classroom or the “grab and go” model the Department of Education we also hope to see improved nutrition, improved educational outcomes, decreased childhood obesity and increased revenue from the federal government.

According to a January 2015 report by the Food Research Action Center (FRAC) on school breakfast participation in 62 large urban school districts across the country, New York City ranked second to last, with only 35.4% of the students receiving free or reduced-price (FRP) lunches also receiving free breakfasts during the 2013-2014 school year. Clearly there is a lot of room for growth.



Having learned first-hand of Newark’s success with in-classroom breakfast, in 2008, New York City launched a pilot project to try out in-classroom breakfasts in a number of schools. At one pilot site, Public School 68 in the Bronx, every student ate breakfast together during their first-period class. The pilot worked better than anyone could have anticipated. The school’s principal has said that before the pilot, an average of 50 children came to school late every day, so many that she had to assign extra staff to writing out late slips. When they started serving breakfast in their classrooms, kids came in early just for the meals, and now only about five kids a day are late—a 900 percent decrease in tardiness. The principal

also mentioned that absenteeism and visits to school nurses also dropped, and in the afternoons, kids fell asleep in the classrooms less frequently. This is obviously not only good nutrition policy but also good education policy.

Los Angeles Unified School District, the second largest school district in the country behind New York City, piloted breakfast in the classroom in twenty schools during the 2011-2012 school year, then began a three-year phased implementation that began in 2012-2013. The percentage of all students eating breakfast has increased from 37.4% to 55.7%, and today, even more students eat breakfast than lunch at school. Over the three-year implementation, LAUSD projects that the increased breakfast participation will bring in an additional \$16.6 million in revenue (after expenses) from Federal reimbursements for breakfasts served. This additional revenue was not only distributed as discretionary incentives to schools that implemented breakfast in the classroom and had over 70% meal participation, but it also saved the jobs of 900 SEIU workers and provided additional hours for part-time workers. Breakfast takes about 15-20 minutes on average, which teachers use as an opportunity to teach math, science, and health. In Los Angeles, breakfast in the classroom has been a big win for everyone involved.

Given that most school districts must now have a complex system in place to collect forms and data on the income of each student's parents to determine the eligibility of each child for either free, reduced-price, or full-cost meals, when a district adopts a universal breakfast or lunch policy, not only does it reduce the stigma faced by children and thereby increase participation, it also reduces the paperwork and bureaucracy, saving the school district time and money. When kids eat breakfast in a classroom as part of the school day instead of in a cafeteria a few hallways away before school begins, they have more time to focus on their studies and are protected from the stigma of having to leave their friends to go to a special breakfast room "for the poor kids." Given that textbooks are widely understood to be a critical educational tool, public school districts typically lend them out free of charge to all students. The time is ripe for the nation to view school meals in the same way. Free breakfast and lunch should be universal in all classrooms around the country.

The facts also prove that breakfast after the bell, whether served in the classroom or via "grab and go" kiosks, is effective in increasing the number of children who eat school breakfast. As reported in the FRAC school breakfast study, "districts serving breakfast in the classroom have the highest participation rates." Evidence in our own city is consistent with this finding: at 23 schools offering BIC school-wide in January 2012, the breakfast participation rate was 68% of all students.

As breakfast in the classroom or the "grab and go" model is rolled out in more elementary schools, the Department of Education can:

**Improve nutrition among food insecure and hungry children** – Nearly three in four New York City public school students qualify to receive free or reduced-price school meals, and approximately one in five children in New York City – about 435,899 – live in households that do not have an adequate food supply throughout the year. For children in families that are struggling to afford food, and thus often skip eating breakfast entirely, the single most effective health intervention is to provide nutritious school breakfasts. Breakfast in the classroom is endorsed as an effective hunger intervention in an article in the *Journal of School Health* titled Breakfast and the Achievement Gap Among Urban Minority Youth, stating, "High quality breakfast programs that allow students to eat breakfast in the classroom are especially needed for youth who are not likely to get good nutrition the rest of the day."

**Improve educational outcomes** - Higher breakfast participation also improves attendance, grades and behavior, and decreases trips to the nurse's office. A study published in the *Journal of the American Dietetic Association* reports that "evidence suggests that breakfast consumption may improve cognitive function related to memory, test grades, and school attendance." Children who eat school breakfast attend

an average of 1.5 more days of school and average 17.5% higher math test scores than children who do not eat breakfast at school.

**Decrease childhood obesity** – Research has linked regular breakfast consumption with lower rates of obesity. A study by Dr. Phillip Gleason and Dr. Allison Dodd found “school breakfast participation was associated with significantly lower body mass index...[and] may be a protective factor, by encouraging students to consume breakfast more regularly.” Additionally, an analysis of 47 studies about the breakfast habits of children and teens came to the conclusion that “breakfast eaters generally consumed more daily calories yet were less likely to be overweight.”

The USDA’s nutritional guidelines for school breakfast reduce the minimum calorie requirement while significantly improving the nutritional content, presenting a real opportunity for DOE to offer students a leaner, more nutritious breakfast. At a young age, it is important to instill good behavior in regards to eating. “Considering that behavior change is central to preventing obesity, the effectiveness of short-term interventions may be biased and even regressive whereas effective long-term interventions are more promising.” Breakfast in the classroom provides just such an opportunity to change behavior around what is often called the most important meal of the day.

Further evidence of long-term behavior affecting BMI comes from a 10-year study in the journal *Obesity* called, Longitudinal Patterns of Breakfast Eating in Black and White Adolescent Girls. One of its conclusions was, “Among girls with a high BMI at baseline (age 9), those who ate breakfast more often had lower BMI at the end of the study (age 19). In other words, eating breakfast more often was associated with decreased BMI at the end of the study, but only among girls who had relatively high BMI at the beginning of the study.”

**Receive more revenue from the federal government** – According to FRAC’s analysis, the New York City Department of Education would have collected an additional \$51 million in federal funds, and served an additional 181,672 low-income students, if it met a 70:100 [FRP Breakfast: FRP Lunch] ratio during the 2013-2014 school year.

## Conclusion

The New York City Coalition Against Hunger recognizes that change does not happen overnight, especially with city bureaucracies the size of the Department of Education, and SchoolFood, the largest school food service authority in the country, but with one in five NYC children living in food insecure households, we are keenly aware that with each day that passes, children in need are waiting for expanded access to these nutrition programs that could make the difference between being fed or going hungry. We believe that only a proactive, transparent, and effective approach will be successful in expanding breakfast after the bell and other programs, such as universal school lunch and summer meals. We hope we can count on the Education Committee, the rest of the City Council, and Mayor de Blasio’s administration to make these changes happen. The 610,000 low-income New York City students who do not eat breakfast at school are counting on each of you.



## Statement from Bronx Health REACH

Before the New York City Council on A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring the department of education to provide data related student participation in free meals in school (Int 773 of 2015)

January 25, 2016  
New York, New York

Kelly Moltzen, MPH, RD  
Program Manager, Creating Healthy Schools & Communities  
Bronx Health REACH  
Institute for Family Health  
212-633-0800 x 1328  
[kmoltzen@institute.org](mailto:kmoltzen@institute.org)

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. The data linking student academic achievement and health to consumption of nutritious foods are well established. Students have higher cognitive function, test grades, and school attendance when they consume breakfast, fruits, vegetables, and a variety of foods. Therefore, Bronx Health REACH supports getting data about the extent to which students are consuming nutritious foods provided by the Office of School Food, and efforts that are being made to increase consumption of breakfast, fruits, vegetables, and other nutritious foods.

In its current form, Intro 773 does not incorporate: 1) participation in school lunch entrees beyond salad bars, 2) communication about nutrient or food quality with students, staff or parents, or 3) measure actual student consumption of food that is served. Because “participation” in school meals does not actually measure food consumption, “participation” may include students accepting a food item and then throwing that food in the trash. It is our understanding that school meal participation and consumption is related to student perception of food quality, and in some cases - when the students are educated about nutrition - also connected to student awareness of the food’s nutritional quality. Student ability to engage with SchoolFood staff is not communicated well within many schools, and as a result many students feel powerless to enact change. This is especially true in school buildings with Satellite Kitchens where frozen foods are reheated and served to the students because the school lacks the kitchen facilities in order for staff to prepare more fresh foods. Therefore, we suggest adding language about reporting on the number of SchoolFood Partnership meetings that occur in each school, which schools have



active School Wellness Councils that meet on a monthly basis, which schools have Full, Modified, or Satellite Kitchens, and what type of food preparation is able to be done in each type of kitchen. Nutrition information and opportunities for student involvement in menu preparation and taste testing need to be offered in order for the majority of students to accept many of the fresher options which could be made available to them through the Alternative Menu and other Farm to School initiatives.

Student participation in a school meal program that includes fresh and appealing food can increase student consumption of much-needed nutritious foods for the students' health and ability to do well academically, but data about meal participation is not enough. Students, staff, and parents need increased opportunities for learning about nutrition information and providing input into process of collaborating with the Office of School Food so that fresher and more culturally diverse food can be provided in schools.

Thank you.



Testimony of:

Ariel Savransky  
Policy Associate for Food and Economic Security  
Citizens' Committee for Children

Before the  
New York City Council  
Committee on Education

*Re Int: 773: Requiring the Department of Education to provide data related to student participation in free meals in schools*

January 25, 2016

Good afternoon. My name is Ariel Savransky and I am the Policy Associate for Food and Economic Security at Citizens' Committee for Children of New York (CCC). CCC is a 72-year-old independent, multi-issue child advocacy organization dedicated to ensuring that every New York child is healthy, housed, educated and safe.

We would like to thank Chair Dromm and the members of the City Council Committee on Education for holding today's hearing on Int. 773, a bill that would require the Department of Education (DOE) to provide data related to student participation in free school meals in school. CCC also thanks Council Member Kallos for introducing this piece of legislation and Council Members Levin, Cabrera, Constantinides, Eugene, Gentile, Miller, Mendez Will and Torres for co-sponsoring it. CCC would like to thank the City Council for your ongoing efforts to increase participation in the school meals program; your tireless advocacy has helped to ensure that today, every middle school student in a stand-alone middle school can have a free lunch. Finally, CCC is also grateful to the administration for its efforts to expand access to healthy school meals.

School meal programs, including breakfast, lunch, summer meals, and after-school snacks/meals, are critical resources in the fight against childhood hunger and obesity, as they provide children from low-income families with consistent access to nutritionally sound free or reduced-price meals.

Food insecurity and hunger continue to take an immense toll on both the short- and long-term overall well-being of New York City's children. In the immediate, a lack of access to nutritious food has contributed to an obesity rate of 20.7 percent among New York City students in kindergarten through eighth grade.<sup>1</sup> Poor nutrition impacts children's academic outcomes; it not only affects cognitive and psychosocial development and a child's ability to focus in class, but can also lead to illnesses, which increase school absences.<sup>2</sup> Further, a poor diet can have lifelong health consequences, such as increased risk of diabetes, heart disease, and stroke.

The child poverty rate in New York City now stands at 29.6 percent.<sup>3</sup> This translates into about one in three New York City children living in poverty. Furthermore, over 400,000 – or about one in five – New York City children are living in food insecure homes.<sup>4</sup> Clearly improving school meal participating rates in New York City is critical for ensuring NYC's children are well-fed and able to learn and grow.

Intro 773 focuses on three critical components of the school meals program: improving the take-up rate for breakfast; access to salad bars; and increasing the take-up rate of CACFP funded after-school snacks and suppers. Each component of this bill is important in ensuring students are fed and able to learn.

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<sup>1</sup> Citizens' Committee for Children. *Keeping Track of New York City's Children 2015*. <http://data.cccnewyork.org/data/map/94/obesity-among-public-elementary-and-middle-school-students#94/a/2/143/9/a>

<sup>2</sup> Sell, K., Zlotnik, S., Noonan, K., and Rubin, D. (Nov. 2010). The Recession and Food Security. *The Effect of Recession on Child Well-Being*.

<sup>3</sup> Citizens' Committee for Children. *Keeping Track of New York City's Children 2015*. <http://data.cccnewyork.org/data/map/96/child-poverty#96/a/2/146/20/a>

<sup>4</sup> New York City Coalition Against Hunger. Working But Hungry: Low Wages and Federal Cut-Backs Keep NYC Hunger Sky High, 2015. [http://nyccah.org/files/Final%20NYCCAH%20Report%202015%20small\\_0.pdf](http://nyccah.org/files/Final%20NYCCAH%20Report%202015%20small_0.pdf)

CCC appreciates the goals of this data reporting bill and thinks it is important to understand as much of the data related to school meals as possible, so that we can target efforts to improve the system as best as possible. For example, knowing which schools do not have salad bars is critical information as we advance initiatives aimed at improving access to healthy and nutritious lunch.

While CCC supports the goals and issues addressed in the bill, we respectfully submit the following suggested amendments to the legislation:

**1) Request Data Using “Average Daily Number” Rather than “Total Number”**

As drafted, Int. 773 would require DOE to publically report annually the total number of students served breakfast before the school day begins, the total number served breakfast after the bell, the total number of students served after-school snacks and the total number of students served after-school supper. We respectfully request that you request the “average daily number” of students rather than the total number of students. When looking at participation data, “total number of students” served will not be indicative of a trend because “total number of students” served does not indicate a time frame. If the numbers are reported as the “average daily” number of students served, meaningful comparisons can be made in terms of whether or not participation is increasing in the meal programs and then a case can be made for either necessary improvements or expansion. This is also the typical way that school meal participation data is presented.

**2) Request the Data Quarterly**

The proposed legislation requests that the data be reported annually. While this is a step in the right direction, we think it would be more helpful to have the data publically reported quarterly. This would allow resources to be directed appropriately in real time, especially as the administration rolls out the Breakfast After the Bell program in elementary schools. This has the potential to result in more successful meal programs and more children eating, as changes to these programs can be made in reaction to participation issues which may arise. Furthermore, having this data reported on a more regular basis has the potential to demonstrate sooner, improvements in participation, and could make a more immediate case for expansion.

**3) Ensure the data reporting requirements are not too onerous for the Department of Education**

The Department of Education and the Office of School Meals are working hard every day to try to improve participation in school meal programs. While the data in this bill is important to have, we want to ensure that the reporting requirements are not too onerous that too many resources need to be devoted to gathering data rather than focusing on efforts to improve school meals and school meal participation. We respectfully suggest the following amendments:

- a) Section (b)(3) would require DOE to provide data on the total number of schools that have salad bars. This information is already publically available and released through the annual Food Metrics Report published annually. So while information about the number of salad

bars is important to know, we suggest you amend the bill to remove this requirement, since the data is already available.

- b) Section (b)(6) would require DOE to report the food items served at breakfast, on the salad bars, and in the after school snacks and supper programs. Food items offered for breakfast, after school snack and after school supper can be found on menus already published publically on the Office of School Food website. For this reason, we suggest you amend the bill to remove the breakfast, after school snack and after school supper reporting requirements.
- c) Section (d) would require DOE to disaggregate all of the data by race, ethnicity and the number of students in title one schools. School food data is not currently collected according to race, ethnicity, and the number of students in title one schools. For example, when a child receives a breakfast, the cafeteria staff do not record the race and ethnicity of the child. Furthermore, the current focus is on expanding participation in school meals and these numbers are not essential in our efforts to expand meal participation. We suggest you amend this section to remove these requirements.

The goal of this legislation is clearly to understand the current school meal participation rates and to make efforts to expand take-up and ensure as many children as possible are eating healthy meals and snacks. We believe that there are many opportunities to make school meals and CACFP snacks and supper more accessible to an increased number of children, as well as to make meals healthier and more appealing.

### **Breakfast:**

According to the annual Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) school breakfast report, New York City's school breakfast participation rates are repeatedly the poorest among major U.S. city and suburban school districts.<sup>5</sup> Only 35% of students who eat free school lunch also eat school breakfast. This bill clearly represents the council's commitment to increasing participation in the breakfast program as the proposed metrics are necessary to keep track of how this program is performing so that appropriate resources can be invested in ensuring its success.

We are incredibly grateful to Mayor de Blasio and the City Council for including funding in the FY16 adopted budget for the roll-out of Breakfast After the Bell at 141 elementary schools in the 2015-2016 school year with a plan to reach all 530 elementary schools, serving 339,000 students, by FY18.

The City is currently rolling out Breakfast After the Bell, with five new elementary schools starting to participate every week. It is important for us to monitor the success of the roll-out, attend to any glitches and then measure the impact on the school breakfast take- up rate. This will help us

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<sup>5</sup> Food Research and Action Center. School Breakfast Scorecard: 2013-2014 School Year. [http://frac.org/pdf/School\\_Breakfast\\_Scorecard\\_SY\\_2013\\_2014.pdf](http://frac.org/pdf/School_Breakfast_Scorecard_SY_2013_2014.pdf)

as we hopefully move to the next phase of planning on an expansion of Breakfast After the Bell to middle and high schools.

### **Salad bars**

In recent years, the City has done a great deal of work to improve the quality of the school meals served in New York City's public schools. The growth in the number of schools that have salad bars represents one such effort, among many, to increase children's access to and consumption of fresh vegetables during school meals.

We urge City leaders to continue to invest in efforts to expand participation in and improve the quality of school meals to alleviate hunger among the City's students. It is also important to consider the appeal of the foods served at the salad bars, as well as the appeal of the entirety of the meals served, to ensure that students will consume the foods being served.

### **Universal Lunch**

We are incredibly grateful for the City Council's efforts to make universal free lunch a reality for all New York City students. The Council's prioritization of universal free school lunch was instrumental in making permanent free school lunch for all students in stand-alone middle schools. As you know, the take-up rate needs to be improved at all grade levels. In high school the take-up rate is 38%.<sup>6</sup> While we were deeply disappointed that the Preliminary Budget did not include an expansion of universal lunch, we look forward to continuing to partner with the City Council to make school lunch universally free to all NYC public school students in this budget cycle.

### **After-school snack and after-school supper**

Providing healthy meals and after-school snacks is critically important for children who may be at school from early in the morning until later in the evening. This is especially true for those students who eat lunch very early in the day.

By the time the school day is over, children need to eat so they can fully engage in the educational and enrichment activities offered through after-school programming. Without this additional meal or snack, students will have shorter attention spans and have difficulty fully participating. Research has also indicated that participation in federal child care and school meal programs is associated with a lower Body Mass Index in children<sup>7</sup> as well as improved dietary quality of children.<sup>8</sup> Additionally, participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is one of the major factors associated with quality child care, according to a study conducted by the Families and Work

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<sup>6</sup> Community Food Advocates. Hungry in High School: Dissing Meals, Missing Meals in New York City High Schools, 2012. [http://media.wix.com/ugd/fce5d8\\_22a6ca0e13fe14a87a8ca9edbaadd81e.pdf](http://media.wix.com/ugd/fce5d8_22a6ca0e13fe14a87a8ca9edbaadd81e.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Kimbro, R. and Rigby, E. (March 2010). Health Affairs. *Federal Food Policy and Childhood Obesity: A Solution Or Part Of The Problem?*

<sup>8</sup> Institute of Medicine and National Research Council Committee on Childhood Obesity Prevention Actions for Local Government, 2009. Local Government Actions to Prevent Childhood Obesity. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK219692/>

Institute.<sup>9</sup> These programs offer an additional opportunity to provide students with nutritious, high quality food.

We urge the City Council to not only focus on the after-school meals and snacks provided through the Department of Education, but also the meals and snacks supported by the Child and Adult Care Food Program. Many Community Based Organizations provide afterschool programming and play an important role in working to increase participation in the snack and supper programs. It is critical that those children are fed as well. Through working to make sure CBOs are aware of and take advantage of the CACFP program, we can ensure that more students are receiving good nutrition.

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In conclusion, school meals are critical resources in ensuring New York City students are provided with and consuming the nutritious food they need to grow and thrive. We ask that the city consider how to further support and grow these programs so that more children can benefit. Thank you again for making school meals a priority and continuing to work to feed more children.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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<sup>9</sup> New York: Families and Work Institute, 1994. The Study of Children in Family Child Care and Relative Care: Highlight of Findings. <http://www.researchconnections.org/childcare/resources/2522>

*The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education. - Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Dr. King's words are the hope and desire for every parent, educator and child. However none of this can be accomplished if a child arrives at school hungry. We live in a society that proclaims liberty and justice for all, but for millions of our children hunger is a daily obstacle that they and their families face, it is our duty as a nation, state, city to ensure that we make every effort available to have every child manifest his ability through education starting with the necessary, fundamental start of having a meal.

I love New York City. There is no other place I would want to live. There is no other place I would want to raise my my children. But the cost of living, raising any family size, is challenging. In my case, I have 2 children in college and 4 in NYC schools from elementary to high school. I am here out of concern for myself and all of the families in New York City who's voices should be heard. I only have 2-3 minutes, I would like to give you numbers based on 3 boroughs that express why NYC should have Universal Free Lunch.

### **The BRONX**

80% of Bronx residents live in multi unit structures (apartment)

\$34,388 is the median income in the Bronx (before taxes)

\$954 is the average rent in the Bronx

\$11,352 yearly average rent in the Bronx (\$954 x 12 months)

\$23,036 yearly difference, \$1,919.66 monthly difference (not including payroll deduction – health insurance, payroll taxes city/state/ federal and food, clothing, personal grooming items, home cleaning items, transportation, utilities – home phone, electricity, heating, cable, Internet, cellphones...)

### **BROOKLYN**

85% of Brooklyn residents live in multi unit structures (apartment)

\$46,085 is the median income in the Brooklyn (before taxes)

\$2,890 is the average rent in the Brooklyn

\$32,532 yearly average rent in the Brooklyn (\$2,890 x 12 months)

\$13,533 yearly difference, \$1,129.42 monthly difference (not including payroll deduction – health insurance, payroll taxes city/state/ federal and food, clothing, personal grooming items, home cleaning items, transportation, utilities – home phone, electricity, heating, cable, Internet, cellphones...)

### **QUEENS**

71.6% of Queens residents live in multi unit structures (apartment)

\$57,001 is the median income in the Queens (before taxes)

\$2,278 is the average rent for a 1 bedroom in the Queens

\$27,336 yearly average rent in the Queens (\$954 x 12 months)

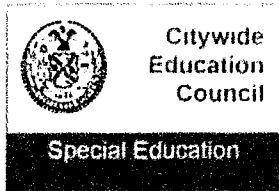
\$29,665 yearly differences on a 1 bedroom, \$2,472.08 monthly difference (not including payroll deduction – health insurance, payroll taxes city/state/ federal and food, clothing, personal grooming items, home cleaning items, transportation, utilities – home phone, electricity, heating, cable, Internet, cellphones...)

Pamela Stewart - Co President  
Citywide Council on Special Education

347 266 5376



# Citywide Council on Special Education



January 21, 2016

SHERYL DAVIS  
Co-President

Hon. Bill de Blasio  
Office of the Mayor - City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

PAMELA STEWART  
Co-President

Dear Mayor de Blasio,

LESLIE CARABALLO  
Vice President

As members of the Citywide Council on Special Education and as representatives of thousands of families who have students with I.E.P.s throughout New York City, we are calling on you to keep your promise to bring universal free lunch to New York City public school students. In your campaign policy book, *One New York, Rising Together*, you promised to:

AMALIA ALVAREZ  
Recording Secretary

### Support Universal Free Meals in Schools

*"Bill de Blasio will make free school lunch available to all public school children at most city schools by taking advantage of the new Community Eligibility Option (CEO) for low-income school districts. This program would take advantage of the federal Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, which the DOE has failed to do. This allows schools to replace the current inefficient, application-based system for school lunches with a paperless data-driven system that allows students to eat free of charge and free of stigma."*

LISA BENNETT-  
WELLS  
Treasurer

### MEMBERS

Denise Garcia

Ellen McHugh

Sandy Noel

Michelle Noris

Gina Panico-Devito

Marilyn Vasquez

We ask that you make good on the promises and expand universal free school lunch to all New York City public school students in your Fiscal Year 2016 Executive Budget. We urge you to address hunger in our schools by ensuring that children have equal and universal access to healthy school meals, regardless of family income or immigration status.

Students must be well nourished to learn. Hundreds of thousands of income-eligible students in New York City public schools do not participate in the school lunch program due to the poverty stigma associated with traditional, fee-based school lunch. Many of these students—as well as others whose parents are not income eligible for free lunch yet cannot afford to pay school lunch fees—struggle through lessons on an empty stomach. In addition, despite urgent need, many immigrant parents are reluctant to fill out the school lunch forms for fear of government reprisal and the pursuit of lunch fees from parents who cannot afford it both put principals in the uncomfortable role of bill collector and indirectly undermines your efforts to increase parent engagement. Offering universal free and healthy school meals without identifying students by

28-11 Queens Plaza North – Room 522, Long Island City, New York, 11101

[CCSE@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:CCSE@schools.nyc.gov) Phone: 718-391-8354 Fax: 718-391-8095

[facebook.com/CitywideCouncilonSpecialEducation](https://www.facebook.com/CitywideCouncilonSpecialEducation)

[www.ccsenyc.org](http://www.ccsenyc.org)

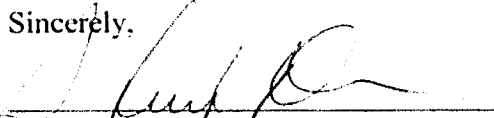
# Citywide Council on Special Education

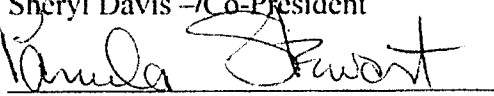
income is fundamental to eliminating stigma, increasing participation and addressing inequities in New York City public schools.

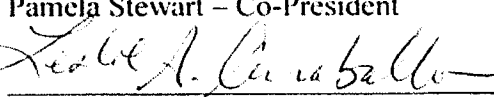
We applaud you, Chancellor Fariña, the City Council, and the Public Advocate for instituting universal free lunch in stand-alone middle schools. However, the majority of our City's children are still unnecessarily subjected to the inequities and stigma encountered in the income-based school lunch system. The City can't afford to ignore the direct health and educational benefits to our children and the financial relief to families of free, accessible school lunch.

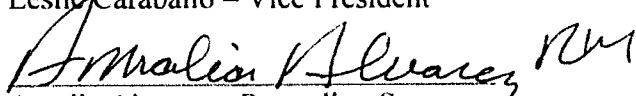
Thank you for your consideration of our request. The Lunch 4 Learning campaign's Parent Caucus has our full support regarding this matter. The Citywide Council on Special Education would greatly appreciate if you would meet with them regarding our mutual concern.

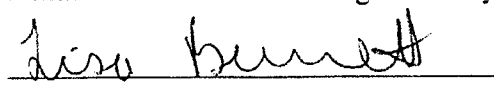
Sincerely,

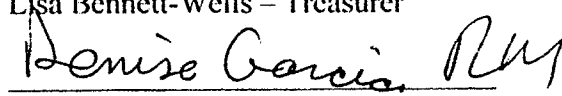
  
Sheryl Davis - Co-President

  
Pamela Stewart - Co-President

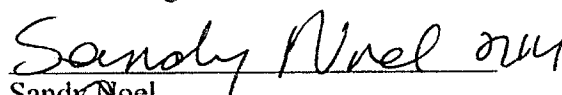
  
Leslie Caraballo - Vice President

  
Amalia Alvarez - Recording Secretary

  
Lisa Bennett-Wells - Treasurer

  
Denise Garcia

  
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[www.ccsenyc.org](http://www.ccsenyc.org)

# *Citywide Council on Special Education*

*Gina M. Panico-Devito*

Gina M. Panico Devito

*Marilyn Vasquez*

Marilyn Vasquez

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**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 1/25/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Liz Accles

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: Community Food Advocates

Address: 15 Maiden Lane, Suite 1200

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 773 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 1/25/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kelly Moltzen

Address: 2006 Madison Ave, NY NY 10035

I represent: Bronx Health REACH Institute for Family Health

Address: 2006 Madison Ave, NY NY 10035

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 773A Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 1/25/2016

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Shula Warren on behalf of Manhattan Borough Pres. Gale Brewer

Address: 1 Centre St., 19th fl.

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[ ]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Pamela Stewart

Address: 1041 Fugate Ave

I represent: Citywide Council on Special Education

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[ ]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ariel Savransky

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: Citizens Committee for children

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[ ]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 773A Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 1/25/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Joel Berg

Address: 50 Broad St suite 1103 NY NY 10003

I represent: New York City Coalition Against Hunger

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 773 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 1/25/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: David DeVaughn

Address: 6 E 32nd St 5th FL NY, NY 10016

I represent: City Harvest

Address: Same as above

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 773-A Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 1-25-2016

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Eric Goldstein

Address: 52 Chambers Street

I represent: NYC DOE - CEO, School Support Services

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 773-A Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 1-25-2016

Name: ELIZABETH ROSE, Deputy Chancellor  
(PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 52 Chambers Street

I represent: NYC Department of Education

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 1-25-2016

Name: Janet Poppendieck  
(PLEASE PRINT)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: CUNY School of Public Health

Address: 55 W 125th St NY NY

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms