



What is the 30% NY Purchasing Incentive?

A provision of the 2018 No Student Goes Hungry legislation that provides School Food Authorities an additional \$.19 per lunch served in State reimbursement provided 30% of lunch purchases are NY Food Products. It is known colloquially as the 30% NY Initiative.

Who receives the additional funds?

The School Food Authority receives the additional State reimbursement. The following scenarios will help determine which entity will receive the funds, dependent upon how your district's Food Service program is managed.

Self-Operated by the District

If your Food Service program is managed and operated by your school district as a School Food Authority, your Food Service department receives the reimbursement, and funds can be used to benefit the Food Service program. The additional reimbursement could help minimize the amount of General Funds needed to offset negative school food debt.

Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES)

The reimbursement is always tied back to the School Food Authority. If you contract with a BOCES to provide Food Service, but your

A NY Food Product is any food item that is grown, harvested, or produced in NYS; or a food item processed inside or outside NYS comprising over 51% agricultural raw materials grown, harvested, or produced in NYS, by weight or volume.

district is the School Food Authority, your district receives the reimbursement as part of NYS Child Nutrition reimbursement. However, if you contract with a BOCES that acts as a School Food Authority, the BOCES would receive the reimbursement. Operating under both contract scenarios, BOCES have been reliable partners in the Initiative; however, only three BOCES have participated to date. If you contract with BOCES and are interested in participating in the 30% NY Initiative, we recommend you express your interest to your BOCES partner. It also may help to assess interest from other districts that contract with the same BOCES and to approach them collectively.

Contract Food Service Management Company

If you contract with a Food Service Management Company (FSMC) like ARAMARK, Whitsons, Sodexo, Compass, or Personal Touch, your school district receives the reimbursement as part of NYS Child Nutrition reimbursement.

To date, no districts managed by a FSMC have qualified for the 30% NY Initiative. If you contract with a FSMC and are interested in exploring the 30% NY Initiative, we recommend two courses of action:

1. Meet with your contract FSMC and express your desire to participate in this program.
2. Include language in your next FSMC contract requiring participation in the 30% NY Initiative.

How is the additional reimbursement received?

School Food Authorities apply for the 30% NY Initiative in August, following the end of the school year. Qualifying School Food Authorities receive the additional reimbursement along with their regular reimbursement from the State.

How can the additional reimbursement be used?

The additional reimbursement can be spent on anything that benefits the Food Service program, including, but not limited to: food, staff training, equipment, infrastructure upgrades, and labor. The intention of the program is to spend the funds on expenses that enable the School Food Authority to purchase more NY Food Products, though it's not mandatory.

What are the benefits of this program?

- Students gain access to healthy, local food throughout the year, including fresh fruits and vegetables.
- School Food Authorities receive additional funds to support their programs. The table below illustrates estimated additional annual reimbursement amounts based on National School Lunch Program participation rates.
- Your school food dollars support local businesses, like farmers, food manufacturers, distributors, and processors, many of which are family-run businesses.
- Students are offered nutrition, food, and agricultural educational opportunities, both in the classroom and in the community.

Is there support to help my district get started?

YES! Cornell Cooperative Extension Harvest NY has a team of Farm to School Coordinators that can work directly with your district. Please reach out to Program Lead, Cheryl Bilinski, to be connected to a Farm to School Coordinator in your region, or if you'd just like to learn more about the opportunity. Cheryl's email is cbt32@cornell.edu and her phone number is (607) 592-9507.

Average Daily Participation	Additional Reimbursement
500	\$ 17,100
1,000	\$ 34,200
1,500	\$ 51,300
3,000	\$ 102,600
5,000	\$ 171,000
7,500	\$ 256,500
10,000	\$ 342,000
15,000	\$ 513,000
25,000	\$ 855,000