

## **New York Farm Bureau**

Renée St. Jacques Senior Associate Director of Public Policy P.518.436.8495 rstjacques@nyfb.org

## MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Senate Bill 1678-A (Senator Hinchey)/ Assembly Bill 1941 (Assemblymember Gonzalez-Rojas)

## AN ACT TO AMEND THE AMEND THE EDUCATION LAW, IN RELATION TO PROVIDING UNIVERSAL SCHOOL MEALS TO STUDENTS

Date: 4/19/2024

New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest agricultural advocacy organization, would like to express its support for this legislation. This legislation would provide universal school meals to all New York students.

Providing universal school meals to students not only benefits New York's youth in schools, but also New York farms. State funding for universal school meals would help generate stable revenue for schools and support the ability of school nutrition directors to focus on implementing Farm to School programs. It is important that more schools have the opportunity to partner with New York farmers in providing fresh, locally produced food to students. Passing this legislation and funding universal school meals will help New York fight food insecurity and support New York farmers.

For these reasons, New York Farm Bureau respectfully requests your support of this legislation.