

Increase State Funding for School Lunch

Quick Facts

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) makes it possible for all children to receive a nutritious lunch at school every day.



Students eating free or low-cost meals that meet current nutrition standards are more likely to be at a healthy weight



Fruit and vegetable consumption has increased by almost 20% since the implementation of the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act (HHFKA)



The Rochester City School District (RCSD) serves 22,000 lunches to students daily



Schools currently receive a maximum of \$3.21 per school meal through federal reimbursements; Through the HHFKA districts can receive an additional \$0.06 cents if they meet the new guidelines



But...only 37% of funding goes towards food. It is not enough to make school lunch nutritious and tasty for kids.



Parents and Healthi Kids have observed students in the RCSD throwing out **25 to 75 percent** of their school lunch.

State funding for the NSLP has remained static over the last 40 years



Healthi Kids Recommends

Supporting the New York State School Nutrition Association ask to state legislators to increase state funding for the National School Lunch Program by 20 cents per meal; and

Allocating any additional funding the RCSD receives towards:

1. Expanding the variety of fruits, vegetables and healthy meals for kids;
2. Investing in food tasting programs to allow kids to choose what items appear on the menu;
3. Continuing kitchen and equipment modernization to increase the capacity to prepare on-site food;
4. Training for food service staff on food preparation, presentation and customer service

By advocating for a handful of public-policy and practice changes, the Healthi Kids Coalition is blazing a path for healthier, more active children in Rochester and Monroe County, New York. Our change agenda calls for better school food, safer play areas, food standards at childcare centers, at least 60 minutes of in-school physical activity, and policies that support breastfeeding.