



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Pamela Helming

Senator Helming Pushes for State Sales Tax Break on School Supplies

PAMELA HELMING September 12, 2024

| ISSUE: **AFFORDABILITY**

The graphic features a dark blue background with school supplies (laptop, books, pencils, scissors) at the top. On the left, a white box contains the text 'Pass Sales Tax Relief on School Supplies' and two checkboxes: one checked with a blue checkmark and labeled 'YES', and one empty and labeled 'NO'. On the right, the text 'Give Families a (Tax) Break!' is written in large white letters, with 'Sign petition at helming.nysenate.gov' below it.

Senator Helming is asking constituents to [sign her petition](#) and rally support in the State Legislature for her bill ([S.3442](#)) exempting school supplies, including costly computer equipment, from the 4% state sales and use tax.

According to the [National Retail Federation](#), families with children in elementary through high school plan to spend an average of \$874.68 on clothing, shoes, school supplies and

electronics for back to school. This is about \$15 less than last year's record of \$890.07 but is the second-highest amount in the survey's history. Total back-to-school spending is expected to reach \$38.8 billion, also the second-highest figure on record, after last year's high of \$41.5 billion.

"Families across New York continue to pay higher prices, whether at the gas pump or the grocery store. Family budgets get squeezed even tighter during back-to-school season. Average spending on electronics and school supplies alone is upwards of \$450. Let's be smart and provide some tax relief to support our students, parents and teachers," said Senator Helming.

Currently in New York, clothing and footwear under \$110 are exempt from the state 4% sales and use tax. Senator Helming's bill would extend this tax exemption to school supplies for the one-week period preceding Labor Day to give families some additional relief.

[Senator Helming's petition is here.](#)

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RELATED LEGISLATION

2023-S3442

- Introduced
- ◦ In Committee Assembly

- In Committee Senate

- ◦ On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate

- ◦ Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate

- Delivered to Governor

- Signed By Governor

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Relates to exempting computer hardware and software and school supplies from sales tax during a specified period

January 31, 2023

In Senate Committee **Investigations and Government Operations**

Sponsored by **Pamela Helming**

Do you support this bill?