

# Senator Pam Helming

Representing the 54th New York Senate District



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## Senator Helming Pushes for State Sales Tax Break on School Supplies



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.

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