

Support Senate Bill 818

The Maryland Meals for Achievement Program

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

March 7, 2018

Maryland Hunger Solutions urges your support of Senate Bill 818 so that students in high-poverty schools will have access to a nutritious school breakfast and start the day ready to learn. Decades of research show that students who participate in school breakfast:

- are less likely to experience food insecurity (the lack of reliable access to the nutritious food needed to live a healthy life – a reality for 17 percent of households with children);¹
- are better able to learn and demonstrate improved academic performance;²
- consume a healthier overall diet and are less likely to be overweight;²
- exhibit better behavior at school;² and
- are less likely to be late to or absent from school.²

Despite these benefits, **less than half of all low-income students** in our state participate in the School Breakfast Program.

Senate Bill 818 aims to increase access to breakfast by strengthening the successful Maryland Meals for Achievement (MMFA) program. MMFA provides universal breakfast in the classroom for over 240,000 students in 450 high-poverty schools. MMFA eliminates the barriers to participation in school breakfast including stigma, the cost of the meal, and the timing that breakfast is available.

Students at MMFA schools demonstrate better educational performance, improved health, and fewer behavioral issues.³ In addition, MMFA schools have fewer suspensions, higher test scores, and fewer tardy students.²

MMFA is a smart investment: for every dollar, \$5.46 is returned in federal school meal reimbursements.

Unfortunately, only half of eligible schools are currently able to participate due to insufficient state funding for the program. In fact, nearly 40,000 students attend schools on the current waiting list for MMFA (see page two for a table of schools on the MMFA waiting list). SB 818 will increase funding so that all 851 high-poverty schools that are eligible can benefit from this successful program.

Maryland Hunger Solutions **urges a favorable report** on Senate Bill 818.

¹ USDA food insecurity data available at <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/key-statistics-graphics.aspx#children>

² Food Research and Action Center, [Breakfast for Learning](http://frac.org/wpcontent/uploads/2009/09/breakfastforlearning.pdf) (<http://frac.org/wpcontent/uploads/2009/09/breakfastforlearning.pdf>) and [Breakfast for Health](http://frac.org/wpcontent/uploads/2011/08/breakfastforhealth.pdf) (<http://frac.org/wpcontent/uploads/2011/08/breakfastforhealth.pdf>).

³ <http://www.eric.ed.gov/PDFS/ED460784.pdf>

Schools on the Maryland Meals for Achievement (MMFA) Waiting List
in 2017-2018 due to Insufficient Funding

Allegany	West Side Elementary	
Anne Arundel	Central Special Education Center	Tracey's Elementary
	Glen Burnie Senior	
Baltimore County	Arbutus Elementary	Orems Elementary
	Carney Elementary	Pot Spring Elementary
	Cedarmere Elementary	Red House Run Elementary
	Essex Elementary	Reisterstown Elementary
	Fullerton Elementary	Relay Elementary
	Glyndon Elementary	Timber Grove Elementary
	Grange Elementary	Victory Villa Elementary
	Middleborough Elementary	Winand Elementary
	Oakleigh Elementary	Woodholme Elementary
Carroll	Elmer A Wolfe Elementary	
Cecil	Cherry Hill Middle	Perryville Elementary
Charles	Thomas Stone High School	
Dorchester	Cambridge-South Dorchester High	North Dorchester High
Frederick	Monocacy Middle	Orchard Grove Elementary
Harford	Edgewood High	Joppatowne High
	John Archer School	Royewilliams Elementary
Howard	Deep Run Elementary	Thomas Viaduct Middle
	Oakland Mills High	
Montgomery	Blair G Ewing Center	Highland View Elementary
	Carl Sandburg Learning Center	Northwood High
	Fields Road Elementary	Redland Middle
	Fox Chapel Elementary	Springbrook High
	Gaithersburg High	Wheaton High
Prince George's	Alternative High	International HS at Langley Park
	Buck Lodge Middle	International HS at Largo
St Mary's	Great Mills High	
Washington	Fountain Rock Elementary	Potomac Heights Elementary
	Jonathan Hager Elementary	
Wicomico	Fruitland Intermediate	Westside Primary
	Fruitland Primary	
Worcester	Pocomoke High	Snow Hill Senior High