



Serving Maryland's Children

Measuring Access to the School Breakfast Program

Maryland Hunger Solutions | March 2012

Executive Summary

The federal School Breakfast Program is a proven way to reduce hunger, improve health and improve student achievement, and Maryland is making progress in expanding school breakfast participation. During the 2010-2011 school year, 115,329 low-income students in Maryland started the day with a nutritious school breakfast—an increase of 8,989 students (8.5 percent growth) from the previous school year. Participation in the National School Lunch Program rose as well, with an additional 11,906 low-income students participating.

Despite this promising increase, much more must be done to ensure that Maryland's most vulnerable children start the day with a nutritious breakfast. Only 46.8 low-income children participated in the school breakfast program for every 100 students who participated in the school lunch program – below the national average. This report analyzes Maryland's and counties' school breakfast participation during the 2010-2011 school year compared to its participation during the 2009-2010 school year, and outlines solutions to help participation continue to grow.

| 2010-2011 School Year Students Participating in the School Breakfast Program per 100 in the National School Lunch Program | |
|---|------|
| Top Five Jurisdictions | |
| Somerset | 96.5 |
| Kent | 83.7 |
| Dorchester | 69.3 |
| Washington | 63.7 |
| Worcester | 63.4 |
| Bottom Five Jurisdictions | |
| Charles | 43.4 |
| Queen Anne's | 41.9 |
| Calvert | 38.2 |
| Carroll | 36.0 |
| Howard | 22.0 |

Key Findings

- Less than half of the children from low-income families who participated in the National School Lunch Program participated in the School Breakfast Program in Maryland in school year 2010-2011. Only 46.8 low-income children participated in the School Breakfast Program for every 100 students who participated in the School Lunch Program—an increase of 1.5 students per 100 from the previous school year, when the ratio was 45.3:100. Maryland continues to rank just below the national average of 48.2:100.ⁱ
- Only two jurisdictions, Somerset and Kent counties, surpassed the goal of reaching 70 low-income students eating breakfast for every 100 eating school lunch. Dorchester County just missed this goal, reaching 69.3 low-income students. Participation varied widely from county to county: Somerset County reached an extraordinary high of 96.5 low-income students participating in school breakfast for every 100 who participate in school lunch, while Howard County reached only 22 low-income students participating in school breakfast for every 100 who participate in school lunch.
- While most jurisdictions (22 out of 24) increased the ratio of low-income students eating school breakfast per 100 eating school lunch from 2009-2010 to 2010-2011, four of the five most populous jurisdictions (Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County) that are home to a

significant majority of the state’s low-income children continued to have rates below the state average—failing to reach tens of thousands of children and losing millions of federal dollars. The fifth county, Anne Arundel County, was able to reach 46.9 low-income students, only slightly exceeding the state average.

- Increasing participation in the school breakfast program so that 70 low-income students eat breakfast for every 100 who eat school lunch would give Maryland an additional \$14,982,957 in federal child nutrition funding to combat childhood hunger and improve nutrition, and would reach an additional 57,657 children.
- Jurisdictions that had widespread use of alternative breakfast delivery models, such as breakfast in the classroom, have been successful in increasing participation in school breakfast in Maryland. Maryland Meals for Achievement, the First Class Breakfast Initiative, and the Partners for Breakfast in the Classroom were all critical to the state’s increase in school breakfast participation, and Maryland Hunger Solutions applauds Governor Martin O’Malley’s support of these programs. More needs to be done to replicate these effective models in schools across the state.

Breakfast in Maryland – Key Concepts and Terms

Eligibility for Free and Reduced-Price Meals: How It Works

Any public or private nonprofit school can participate in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. In Maryland, school districts must apply to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), the administering state agency, in order to institute a program, which is administered nationally through the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service.

All students in participating schools may take part in the school meal programs. Household income generally determines whether students receive free meals, reduced-price meals, or self-paid meals. Children from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the federal poverty line receive school meals for free. Children from families with incomes between 130 percent and 185 percent of the poverty line receive school meals at a reduced price. All other participating students, officially designated as receiving “paid” meals, pay most of the cost for their meals. As discussed elsewhere in this report, however, schools increasingly are offering meals—or at least breakfast—free to all students.

The federal government provides reimbursement funds to a school (through the state) for each breakfast and lunch it provides to students in each category. During the 2010-2011 school year, schools received \$1.48 for each free breakfast, \$1.18 for each reduced-price breakfast (families could be charged a maximum co-payment of 30 cents), and \$0.26 for each paid breakfast served. Schools received an additional \$0.28 for each free and reduced-price breakfast served if at least 40 percent of the lunches served in that school during the second preceding school year were free or reduced-price. (These are called “severe need” schools.)

Breakfast Terms

Universal breakfast: All children are offered breakfast free of charge regardless of family income.

Categorical eligibility: A child who is in foster care, in Head Start, homeless, migrant or living in a household receiving SNAP/Food Stamps, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) and/or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits is categorically eligible for free school meals. These children can all be certified for free meals without a paper application through a data exchange between the corresponding authority and the school district. This is known as Direct Certification.

Alternative Delivery Models

Breakfast in the classroom: All children are offered breakfast in their classroom, either at the beginning of the school day or early during the day.

Grab-and-go: Children can easily grab all the components of school breakfast quickly from the cafeteria line or from carts or kiosks elsewhere on school grounds and eat outside of the cafeteria.

Second-chance breakfast: Offers students a second chance to obtain and eat breakfast after homeroom or first period.



Introduction

Maryland is one of the wealthiest states in the country, home to five of the most affluent jurisdictions nationwide.ⁱⁱ Yet, one in five households with children had difficulty affording enough food to feed their family in 2009-2010.ⁱⁱⁱ Thirteen percent of Maryland children lived in poverty in 2010, and the unemployment rate averaged 7.4 percent in 2011.^{iv v} Challenged by increased food insecurity and child poverty rates and persistent unemployment, families continue to struggle to make ends meet and to provide adequate food and nutrition for their children. Reliable sources of healthy meals, through resources like the School Breakfast Program, are more important than ever to ensure that Maryland's struggling families have access to healthy and nutritious meals. Children are best equipped to learn and achieve at school when they start their day with a healthy meal. The School Breakfast Program reduces hunger, and has been shown to improve students' math and reading scores, their speed and memory in cognitive tests, and their ability to perform on standardized tests, compared with students who skip breakfast or eat breakfast at home.^{vi} Additionally, schools where students start their day with school breakfast report decreases in discipline problems and tardiness; decreases in visits to the school nurse; and increases in student attentiveness and attendance.^{vii}

This report analyzes school breakfast participation in Maryland for the 2010-2011 school year compared to the 2009-2010 school year and finds that—despite increases in participation amounting to an additional 8,989 low-income children on an average day—this program is not reaching as many children as it should. Participation in the free and reduced-price School Breakfast Program rose by more than eight percent statewide. (During that time the National School Lunch Program saw an increase of more than five percent in participation.) Still, breakfast participation continues to lag far behind lunch participation in the state. While an additional 8,989 low-income children in Maryland participate in the morning meal, less than half of the low-income children who eat school lunch also eat school breakfast. As more families are struggling and more children are qualifying to receive free and reduced-price school meals, the need to improve participation in school breakfast programs must be a priority for the state.

Success Reaching Children in Rural Counties

In the 2010-2011 school year, Maryland saw the greatest relative success in combating hunger through the School Breakfast Program in Somerset, Kent, Dorchester, Washington, and Worcester counties. Somerset County, also the top county during the 2009-2010 school year, further improved its high participation rate by reaching 96.5 low-income students in school breakfast per every 100 participating in school lunch. Kent County reached 83.7 low-income students in school breakfast per every 100 participating in school lunch. Somerset and Kent counties were the only jurisdictions in the state to exceed the goal of reaching 70 low-income students in school breakfast per every 100 participating in school lunch. Dorchester County reached a ratio of 69.3:100; Washington County reached a ratio of 63.7:100; and Worcester County reached a ratio of 63.4:100.

School officials in both Somerset and Washington counties attribute much of their success to Maryland Meals for Achievement (MMFA), a program that enables participating schools with at least 40 percent of enrollment approved for free or reduced-price meals have free breakfast offered in the classroom to all



**2010-2011 School Year Participation in the School Breakfast Program and
the National School Lunch Program***

| Jurisdiction | Free & Reduced Price Lunch Program (NSLP) Students | Free & Reduced Price School Breakfast Program (SBP) Students | Free & Reduced Price Students in SBP per 100 NSLP | Rank | Additional Low-Income Students if 70 Were Served Breakfast per 100 in Lunch | Additional Federal Funding if 70 Low-Income Students in Breakfast per 100 Receiving Lunch |
|-----------------|--|--|---|-----------|---|---|
| ALLEGANY | 3,730 | 2,267 | 60.8 | 6 | 344 | \$81,964 |
| ANNE ARUNDEL | 14,296 | 6,710 | 46.9 | 14 | 3,297 | \$859,168 |
| BALTIMORE | 31,999 | 14,023 | 43.8 | 19 | 8,377 | \$2,183,765 |
| CALVERT | 2,223 | 849 | 38.2 | 22 | 707 | \$184,458 |
| CAROLINE | 2,249 | 1,084 | 48.2 | 13 | 490 | \$127,086 |
| CARROLL | 3,022 | 1,088 | 36.0 | 23 | 1,028 | \$261,943 |
| CECIL | 4,409 | 2,580 | 58.5 | 7 | 507 | \$131,415 |
| CHARLES | 5,706 | 2,476 | 43.4 | 20 | 1,518 | \$390,545 |
| DORCHESTER | 2,120 | 1,469 | 69.3 | 3 | 14 | \$3,744 |
| FREDERICK | 6,492 | 3,006 | 46.3 | 15 | 1,539 | \$394,040 |
| GARRETT | 1,550 | 879 | 56.7 | 9 | 206 | \$51,407 |
| HARFORD | 8,020 | 3,956 | 49.3 | 12 | 1,658 | \$424,144 |
| HOWARD | 6,300 | 1,389 | 22.0 | 24 | 3,021 | \$802,091 |
| KENT | 863 | 722 | 83.7 | 2 | N/A | N/A |
| MONTGOMERY | 33,056 | 14,892 | 45.0 | 17 | 8,248 | \$2,116,955 |
| PRINCE GEORGE'S | 53,687 | 23,809 | 44.3 | 18 | 13,771 | \$3,608,440 |
| QUEEN ANNE'S | 1,273 | 534 | 41.9 | 21 | 357 | \$91,213 |
| ST. MARY'S | 3,639 | 2,078 | 57.1 | 8 | 469 | \$121,770 |
| SOMERSET | 1,296 | 1,250 | 96.5 | 1 | N/A | N/A |
| TALBOT | 1,221 | 639 | 52.3 | 11 | 216 | \$55,803 |
| WASHINGTON | 7,513 | 4,784 | 63.7 | 4 | 475 | \$120,648 |
| WICOMICO | 5,746 | 3,250 | 56.6 | 10 | 773 | \$199,606 |
| WORCESTER | 2,057 | 1,305 | 63.4 | 5 | 135 | \$34,790 |
| BALTIMORE CITY | 43,994 | 20,288 | 46.1 | 16 | 10,508 | \$2,737,963 |
| Total | 246,463 | 115,329 | 46.8 | NA | 57,657 | \$14,982,957 |

*Numbers of Students Refer to Average Daily Participation

students. Seven out of eight eligible schools in Somerset County and 20 out of 26 in Washington County participate in MMFA. The Washington County Food and Nutrition Services supervisor also cites an exceptionally supportive school administration, which embraced the MMFA breakfast in the classroom model and implemented it successfully in 20 schools.

In addition to MMFA, the coordinator of Food and Nutrition Services for Somerset County also credits its success to a creative and rotating menu of breakfast items as a way to engage students' interest and maintain high levels of parent and student satisfaction with the School Breakfast Program.

Each of these smaller counties experienced increases in free and reduced-price meals enrollment from 2009-2010 to 2010-2011, and, through an emphasis on free and reduced-price school breakfasts, helped families close budget gaps and ensure consistent access to food for their children.

Struggling to Meet Increased Need in Maryland’s Most Populous Jurisdictions

The majority of Maryland’s low-income children live in the most populous jurisdictions in the state—Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Montgomery County, and Prince George’s County. These five areas are home to 63.5 percent of children ages 6-17 in the state and have a disproportionate concentration of children (69.7 percent of those in the state) ages 6-17 who have family incomes under 185 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL).^{viii} Thus, school districts in these jurisdictions have an important role to play in ensuring these large numbers of vulnerable children in their communities are connected to important nutritional supports through the School Breakfast Program.

Even though each of these jurisdictions saw an increase in the number of students participating in free and reduced-price school breakfast participation in the 2010-2011 school year—ranging from a 3.1 percent increase in Baltimore City to a 19.3 percent increase in Anne Arundel County—more needs to be done to ensure that more children are benefitting from the School Breakfast Program. Only Anne Arundel County met the state average—which is itself far too low—for breakfast participation, reaching 46.9 low-income students. The other four jurisdictions (Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Montgomery County, and Prince George’s County) continued to have rates below the state average.

As families continue to struggle with making ends meet on a limited budget, these five jurisdictions are missing out on an opportunity to meet the nutritional needs of thousands of low-income children and to claim substantial federal reimbursement dollars. By not maximizing participation in the School Breakfast Program, these jurisdictions left a combined total of more than \$11.5 million on the table.

| Jurisdictions | 2010-2011 School Year | | | | | | Change from 2009-2010 to 2010-2011 | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | F&RP NSLP Students | F&RP SBP Students | F&RP Students in SBP per 100 NSLP | Rank within Maryland | Additional Low-Income Students in Breakfast if 70 per 100 in Lunch | Additional Federal Funding if 70 Low-Income Students in Breakfast per 100 Receiving Lunch | Change in Ratio | % Change in F&RP SBP Students |
| ANNE ARUNDEL | 14,296 | 6,710 | 46.9 | 14 | 3,297 | \$859,168 | 2.6 | 19.3 |
| BALTIMORE | 31,999 | 14,023 | 43.8 | 19 | 8,377 | \$2,183,765 | 0.7 | 9 |
| MONTGOMERY | 33,056 | 14,892 | 45.0 | 17 | 8,248 | \$2,116,955 | 0.7 | 9.7 |
| PRINCE GEORGE'S | 53,687 | 23,809 | 44.3 | 18 | 13,771 | \$3,608,440 | 1.3 | 5.9 |
| BALTIMORE CITY | 43,994 | 20,288 | 46.1 | 16 | 10,508 | \$2,737,963 | 1.4 | 3.1 |



If Maryland is to continue to increase its participation in the School Breakfast Program and better meet the needs of the children in the state, Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County must become leaders in the state on breakfast. They must do much more to increase participation numbers so that at least 70 low-income students participate in the School Breakfast Program for every 100 low-income students who participate in the School Lunch Program.

Breakfast Initiative Success

Increasing participation in the School Breakfast Program is vital to ensuring that every child in Maryland starts the day with a nutritious meal, ready to learn. Utilizing alternative models like breakfast in the classroom is a proven way to increase breakfast participation. Nationally, schools are reaching significant numbers of children through the School Breakfast Program by offering students alternative ways to obtain and consume breakfast.^{ix} The greatest successes in increasing breakfast participation in Maryland and in large jurisdictions outside of Maryland, such as Newark, Detroit, and Houston, have come in schools that implement these alternative delivery models like breakfast in the classroom. For example, Newark's district-wide universal breakfast and alternative breakfast delivery models reached 87.2 low-income students in school breakfast per every 100 participating in school lunch; Detroit's reached a ratio of 86.8:100; and Houston's reached a ratio of 79.1:100.^x While the demographics of these jurisdictions cannot be directly compared with jurisdictions in Maryland, their success indicates that similar models can work in Maryland.

Initiatives to implement alternative delivery models, most notably serving breakfast in the classroom, have already begun to successfully increase participation in target schools in Maryland.

Maryland Meals for Achievement

Maryland Meals for Achievement (MMFA) is a state-funded breakfast program that offers free breakfast in the classroom to all students in a number of schools that participate in the federal School Breakfast Program and have at least 40 percent of student enrollment approved for free or reduced-price meals. Eligible schools can apply to become an MMFA school and receive state funds to cover a proportion of meal costs not covered by federal reimbursements.^{xi}

By allowing all students to receive a free school breakfast regardless of family income, MMFA reduces the stigma attached to students qualifying for free and reduced-price school meals. Additionally, offering breakfast in the classroom allows more students to participate by reducing the challenges posed by late bus schedules and early school start times. During the 2010-2011 school year, 55 percent of Maryland schools (787 schools) were eligible for this program but only 29 percent of eligible schools (229 schools) participated (see chart on page 13).^{xii} This low participation rate is due largely to limited state funding for the program.



A 2001 evaluation of MMFA, reported by the Maryland State Department of Education, confirmed many of the positive outcomes of serving breakfast in the classroom, including a five percent increase in the number of students who scored at or above satisfactory levels on the Maryland School Performance Assessment Program Composite Index scores; an 8 percent decline in tardiness; a 46 percent decrease in suspension length; and a 72 percent average increase in breakfast participation.^{xiii}

School breakfast participation soars in MMFA schools. The current average participation in MMFA schools is 68 percent. In four of the top five performing school breakfast counties (Somerset, Kent, Dorchester, and Washington counties), more than 70 percent of the eligible schools participated in the MMFA program.

The program's reach, however, has been hampered by low funding. In areas of high need, like Caroline County, 100 percent of schools are eligible to participate but only 46 percent actually receive MMFA funding. In Wicomico County, 81 percent of schools are eligible to participate and only 29 percent of eligible schools do so. Baltimore City schools have a 98 percent eligibility rate and a participation rate of four percent. In Prince George's County, 77 percent of the schools are eligible for MMFA, but only 14 percent of eligible schools participate.

Steps are being taken, however, to begin to address this funding shortfall. Maryland Hunger Solutions, along with other partners, advocated for the Governor to increase funding for MMFA. In his FY2013 budget proposal, Governor Martin O'Malley included a 20 percent increase in funding for MMFA (an additional \$560,000), which would enable 46 more eligible schools to participate and provide in-classroom breakfast to 20,000 more children, according to the Maryland State Department of Education. This is an important step in the right direction. If the state is serious about addressing the hunger experienced by its most vulnerable children, it is critical for the Maryland General Assembly to support the Governor's increase in MMFA funding and for the state to build further on this excellent program in coming years.

First Class Breakfast Initiative

The First Class Breakfast initiative, a project of the Governor's Partnership to End Childhood Hunger, funded by Kaiser Permanente and Share Our Strength, assisted schools in adopting alternative breakfast models, including breakfast in the classroom, grab-and-go breakfast, and second-chance breakfast, in seven jurisdictions during the 2010-2011 school year. To promote the First Class Breakfast initiative, the Governor's Partnership held open houses at select initiative schools and hosted a Breakfast with the Governor at the State House for school personnel, highlighting the initiative and the importance of school breakfast.

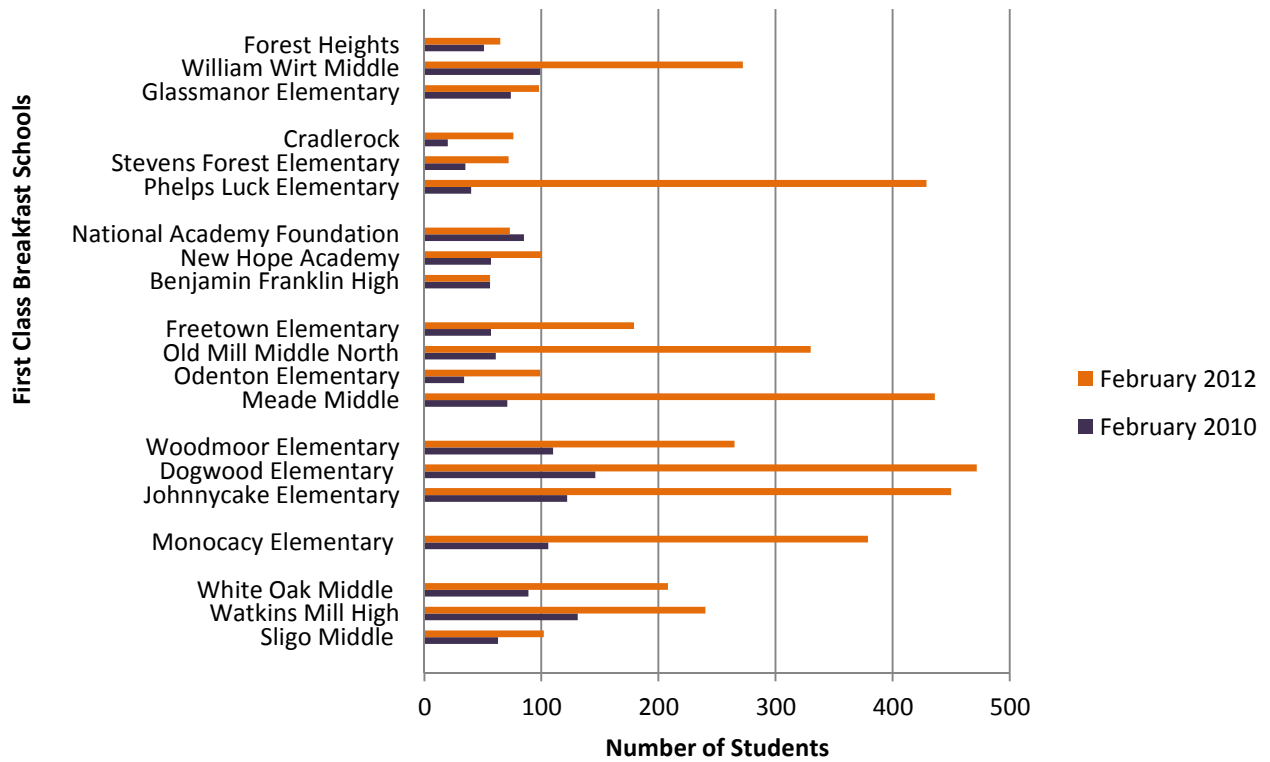
The Partnership To End Childhood Hunger in Maryland

Maryland's Governor Martin O'Malley is the first governor in the nation to commit to ending childhood hunger by 2015.

He charged the Governor's Office for Children, in collaboration with Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry campaign, to be the lead state agency in the effort to end childhood hunger in the United States by 2015. Maryland Hunger Solutions serves as a core advisor in the Governor's Partnership to End Childhood Hunger, a coalition of organizations and agencies at the national, state, and local levels. Increasing participation in the School Breakfast Program is one of the coalition's core strategies to eliminate childhood hunger in Maryland.



Change in Number of Students Participating in School Breakfast February 2010 - February 2012



With funding from this project, Maryland Hunger Solutions hired two “Breakfast Navigators” to work with stakeholders in the seven targeted jurisdictions—Baltimore City, and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery and Prince George’s counties. The Breakfast Navigators worked closely with school administrators and staff in 20 schools to help them implement alternative delivery models that would help increase school breakfast participation. Small grant awards were made to the schools to purchase start-up materials and equipment, which supported the successful implementation of the alternative breakfast delivery models. Eighteen of the 20 schools implemented the initiative in 2011 and the remaining two schools have already implemented the program in 2012.

The First Class Breakfast initiative demonstrates the effectiveness of allowing children to eat breakfast in the classroom as part of the school day and emphasizes the need to continue these alternative delivery models throughout the state. In addition, the First Class Breakfast schools that also received MMFA funding after the launch of the First Class Breakfast initiative (Meade Middle School in Anne Arundel County; Johnnycake and Dogwood elementary schools in Baltimore County; Monocacy Elementary School in Frederick County; and Phelps Luck Elementary School in Howard County) had tremendous increases in school breakfast participation, as can be seen in the chart above. This clearly shows that when all students can participate for free regardless of family income, and do so in the classroom, participation rates soar. Great gains have been made through the



implementation of the First Class Breakfast Initiative, but there is still room for further progress in these First Class Breakfast schools.

Partners for Breakfast in the Classroom

During the 2010-2011 school year, the Partners for Breakfast in the Classroom—a collaboration among the Food Research and Action Center, the National Association of Elementary School Principals Foundation, the National Education Association Health Information Network, and the School Nutrition Foundation, and funded by the Walmart Foundation—worked with the Prince George’s County School District to implement breakfast in the classroom in 20 schools. All students in the 20 schools are offered breakfast for free, regardless of income. Using a grab-and-go model, students can pick up breakfast in the cafeteria and take it to the classroom to eat in a community setting at the start of the school day. Maryland Hunger Solutions worked with the Partners, providing technical assistance to Prince George’s County to ensure the success of the project. This partnership brought together all major stakeholders in the district, including administrators, principals, teachers, custodians and parents, to build a strong breakfast in the classroom program.

Since the implementation of Breakfast in the Classroom in September 2011, Carrollton Elementary School and Port Towns Elementary reported two of the largest increases in breakfast participation, with Carrollton growing participation from 129 students in September 2011 to 501 students in December 2011 and Port Towns increasing participation from 144 students in September 2011 to 700 students in December 2011.

The Breakfast in the Classroom project was extremely successful. Stakeholders in Prince George’s County are working to further expand the number of schools offering free breakfast to all students and allowing them to eat it in the classroom. These and other efforts are needed so that the many thousands of children in Prince George’s County who are not benefiting from school breakfast will be able to do so.

Recommendations

The School Breakfast Program is a proven way not only to combat hunger, but also to improve test scores, attendance, and behavior. Additionally, free and reduced-price school breakfast eases the financial burdens that many Maryland families face every day. Increasing school breakfast participation will allow more Maryland children to start the day with a nutritious meal, ready to learn; what’s more, Maryland will receive more federal dollars to expand and improve the school nutrition programs. Maryland can significantly increase breakfast participation by taking the following steps:

Make breakfast more accessible through alternative models. Maryland Meals for Achievement, the First Class Breakfast initiative, and the Partners for Breakfast in the Classroom project all demonstrate that by offering students alternative ways to obtain and eat breakfast, more students will participate in the School Breakfast Program. Alternative delivery models erase barriers to participation, including stigma, transportation difficulties, bus schedules and delays, and school schedules, allowing more students to start the day well-nourished and ready to learn.

Increase funding for Maryland Meals for Achievement to expand the program. Maryland Meals for Achievement consistently results in higher breakfast participation, increased student academic achievement, and improved student behavior. Governor O’Malley proposed a 20 percent increase in funding for Maryland



Meals for Achievement in his FY2013 budget proposal. Maryland Hunger Solutions urges the General Assembly to approve this proposed increase; it will help reduce childhood hunger in Maryland and result in 20,000 more of Maryland's children starting the day with a nutritious school breakfast.

Encourage the five largest jurisdictions to reach more students. Maryland will only make headway in the fight to end childhood hunger by reaching the greatest possible number of vulnerable children, the large majority of whom reside in Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County. Until these five jurisdictions reach at breakfast more than 70 percent of students eligible for free and reduced-price meals, too many students will miss out on the benefits of the School Breakfast Program.

Take advantage of Community Eligibility. Community Eligibility is the newest federal option for offering free meals to all students in a school. When 40 percent or more of a school's students are directly certified to receive free school meals (because the child's household receives Food Supplement Program -- food stamp -- benefits or participates in TANF or FDPIR, or the child is homeless, migrant, or in foster care), that school may use a formula based on direct certification data as the basis for reimbursements, instead of relying on individual paper applications. This will streamline the process and increase the number of low-income students receiving free and reduced-price school meals. In order for Maryland's schools to benefit from Community Eligibility, the Maryland State Department of Education must apply to the United States Department of Agriculture to be included in this new option. Three states—Illinois, Kentucky, and Michigan—currently participate in this option, and four more states will be selected in each of the next two school years. Community Eligibility will be available nationwide in the 2014-2015 school year.

Continue to promote the School Breakfast Program. The state and local jurisdictions should promote the School Breakfast Program year round, by utilizing every available means of communication: handouts in students' backpacks, reminders included with report cards, announcements at PTA meetings and back-to-school nights, Connect-Ed automated messages, and notices to local school-community workgroups. Schools should seize every opportunity to remind parents about the benefits of the School Breakfast Program and encourage enrollment all year.

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2010-2011 School Year Free and Reduced-Price (F&RP) Meal Enrollment

| Jurisdiction | Enrollment | F&RP Enrollment | F&RP Rate | Change in Enrollment* | Change in F&RP Enrollment* | Percent Change in F&RP Enrollment* |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ALLEGANY | 9,007 | 4,657 | 51.70% | -136 | 84 | 1.84% |
| ANNE ARUNDEL | 75,351 | 21,097 | 28.00% | 723 | 1,762 | 9.11% |
| BALTIMORE | 104,309 | 44,108 | 42.29% | 484 | 3,302 | 8.09% |
| CALVERT | 16,421 | 3,592 | 21.87% | -206 | 400 | 12.53% |
| CAROLINE | 5,673 | 3,030 | 53.41% | -28 | 41 | 1.37% |
| CARROLL | 27,903 | 4,351 | 15.59% | -403 | 274 | 6.72% |
| CECIL | 15,923 | 6,108 | 38.36% | -266 | 399 | 6.99% |
| CHARLES | 26,908 | 7,686 | 28.56% | 69 | 446 | 6.16% |
| DORCHESTER | 4,720 | 2,829 | 59.94% | 7 | 140 | 5.21% |
| FREDERICK | 40,281 | 9,213 | 22.87% | 160 | 748 | 8.84% |
| GARRETT | 4,349 | 2,074 | 47.69% | -95 | -81 | -3.76% |
| HARFORD | 38,395 | 10,516 | 27.39% | -244 | 596 | 6.01% |
| HOWARD | 51,079 | 8,201 | 16.06% | 321 | 827 | 11.22% |
| KENT | 2,199 | 1,083 | 49.25% | 17 | 95 | 9.62% |
| MONTGOMERY | 144,217 | 44,290 | 30.71% | 2,329 | 2,776 | 6.69% |
| PRINCE GEORGE'S | 126,723 | 69,020 | 54.47% | -586 | 1,638 | 2.43% |
| QUEEN ANNE'S | 7,831 | 1,777 | 22.69% | -22 | 150 | 9.22% |
| ST. MARY'S | 17,349 | 5,039 | 29.04% | 210 | 495 | 10.89% |
| SOMERSET | 2,911 | 1,918 | 65.89% | 20 | 65 | 3.51% |
| TALBOT | 4,509 | 1,591 | 35.28% | -43 | 50 | 3.24% |
| WASHINGTON | 21,633 | 9,781 | 45.21% | 295 | 668 | 7.33% |
| WICOMICO | 14,341 | 7,667 | 53.46% | -214 | 533 | 7.47% |
| WORCESTER | 6,821 | 2,813 | 41.24% | 45 | 136 | 5.08% |
| BALTIMORE CITY | 84,605 | 70,962 | 83.87% | 929 | 1,100 | 1.57% |
| Total | 853,696 | 343,569 | 40.24% | 3,604 | 16,810 | 5.14% |

* Changes in enrollment compare student enrollment from school year 2010-2011 to school year 2009-2010



**2010-2011 School Year Free and Reduced-Price (F&RP) School Breakfast Program and
National School Lunch Program Participation**

| Jurisdictions | 2009-2010 School Year | | | | 2010-2011 School Year | | | | Change in Ratio | Change in F&RP SBP Number of Students | % Change in F&RP SBP Number of Students |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| | F&RP NSLP Students | F&RP SBP Students | F&RP Students in SBP per 100 NSLP | Rank | F&RP NSLP Students | F&RP SBP Students | F&RP Students in SBP per 100 NSLP | Rank | | | |
| ALLEGANY | 3,636 | 2,073 | 57.0 | 6 | 3,730 | 2,267 | 60.8 | 6 | 3.8 | 194 | 9.4% |
| ANNE ARUNDEL | 12,685 | 5,625 | 44.3 | 16 | 14,296 | 6,710 | 46.9 | 14 | 2.6 | 1,085 | 19.3% |
| BALTIMORE | 29,826 | 12,860 | 43.1 | 19 | 31,999 | 14,023 | 43.8 | 19 | 0.7 | 1,162 | 9.0% |
| CALVERT | 1,978 | 711 | 35.9 | 22 | 2,223 | 849 | 38.2 | 22 | 2.3 | 138 | 19.4% |
| CAROLINE | 2,208 | 991 | 44.9 | 13 | 2,249 | 1,084 | 48.2 | 13 | 3.3 | 93 | 9.4% |
| CARROLL | 2,861 | 947 | 33.1 | 23 | 3,022 | 1,088 | 36.0 | 23 | 2.9 | 141 | 14.9% |
| CECIL | 4,133 | 2,311 | 55.9 | 7 | 4,409 | 2,580 | 58.5 | 7 | 2.6 | 269 | 11.7% |
| CHARLES | 5,470 | 1,970 | 36.0 | 21 | 5,706 | 2,476 | 43.4 | 20 | 7.4 | 506 | 25.7% |
| DORCHESTER | 2,065 | 1,405 | 68.0 | 4 | 2,120 | 1,469 | 69.3 | 3 | 1.3 | 64 | 4.6% |
| FREDERICK | 5,946 | 2,616 | 44.0 | 17 | 6,492 | 3,006 | 46.3 | 15 | 2.3 | 390 | 14.9% |
| GARRETT | 1,641 | 888 | 54.1 | 9 | 1,550 | 879 | 56.7 | 9 | 2.6 | -8 | -1.0% |
| HARFORD | 7,517 | 3,550 | 47.2 | 12 | 8,020 | 3,956 | 49.3 | 12 | 2.1 | 407 | 11.5% |
| HOWARD | 5,881 | 1,112 | 18.9 | 24 | 6,300 | 1,389 | 22.0 | 24 | 3.1 | 277 | 24.9% |
| KENT | 802 | 611 | 76.2 | 2 | 863 | 722 | 83.7 | 2 | 7.5 | 111 | 18.2% |
| MONTGOMERY | 30,599 | 13,578 | 44.4 | 15 | 33,056 | 14,892 | 45.0 | 17 | 0.7 | 1,314 | 9.7% |
| PRINCE GEORGE'S | 52,216 | 22,490 | 43.1 | 20 | 53,687 | 23,809 | 44.3 | 18 | 1.3 | 1,319 | 5.9% |
| QUEEN ANNE'S | 1,149 | 497 | 43.2 | 18 | 1,273 | 534 | 41.9 | 21 | -1.2 | 38 | 7.6% |
| ST. MARY'S | 3,356 | 1,852 | 55.2 | 8 | 3,639 | 2,078 | 57.1 | 8 | 1.9 | 226 | 12.2% |
| SOMERSET | 1,259 | 1,059 | 84.1 | 1 | 1,296 | 1,250 | 96.5 | 1 | 12.4 | 191 | 18.1% |
| TALBOT | 1,134 | 583 | 51.4 | 11 | 1,221 | 639 | 52.3 | 11 | 0.9 | 56 | 9.6% |
| WASHINGTON | 7,028 | 4,939 | 70.3 | 3 | 7,513 | 4,784 | 63.7 | 4 | -6.6 | -155 | -3.1% |
| WICOMICO | 5,233 | 2,807 | 53.6 | 10 | 5,746 | 3,250 | 56.6 | 10 | 2.9 | 443 | 15.8% |
| WORCESTER | 1,920 | 1,197 | 62.3 | 5 | 2,057 | 1,305 | 63.4 | 5 | 1.1 | 108 | 9.0% |
| BALTIMORE CITY | 44,013 | 19,669 | 44.7 | 14 | 43,994 | 20,288 | 46.1 | 16 | 1.4 | 618 | 3.1% |
| Total | 234,557 | 106,340 | 45.3 | NA | 246,463 | 115,329 | 46.8 | NA | 1.5 | 8,989 | 8.5% |



2010-2011 Maryland Meals for Achievement Program

| Jurisdiction | Total Number of Schools in County | Number of Schools Eligible for MMFA | Percent of Schools Eligible for MMFA | Number of Schools Participating in MMFA | Percent of Eligible Schools Participating in MMFA | Percent of All Schools Participating in MMFA |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| ALLEGANY | 24 | 19 | 79% | 10 | 52.6% | 42% |
| ANNE ARUNDEL | 120 | 42 | 35% | 21 | 50.0% | 18% |
| BALTIMORE | 167 | 102 | 61% | 27 | 26.5% | 16% |
| CALVERT | 24 | 5 | 21% | 0 | 0.0% | 0% |
| CAROLINE | 11 | 11 | 100% | 5 | 45.5% | 45% |
| CARROLL | 44 | 3 | 7% | 3 | 100.0% | 7% |
| CECIL | 30 | 14 | 47% | 10 | 71.4% | 33% |
| CHARLES | 38 | 11 | 29% | 6 | 54.5% | 16% |
| DORCHESTER | 13 | 11 | 85% | 8 | 72.7% | 62% |
| FREDERICK | 65 | 13 | 20% | 7 | 53.8% | 11% |
| GARRETT | 16 | 12 | 75% | 9 | 75.0% | 56% |
| HARFORD | 53 | 17 | 32% | 9 | 52.9% | 17% |
| HOWARD | 72 | 8 | 11% | 2 | 25.0% | 3% |
| KENT | 7 | 6 | 86% | 5 | 83.3% | 71% |
| MONTGOMERY | 207 | 80 | 39% | 31 | 38.8% | 15% |
| PRINCE GEORGE'S | 203 | 156 | 77% | 21 | 13.5% | 10% |
| QUEEN ANNE'S | 16 | 4 | 25% | 2 | 50.0% | 13% |
| ST. MARY'S | 26 | 7 | 27% | 5 | 71.4% | 19% |
| SOMERSET | 9 | 8 | 89% | 7 | 87.5% | 78% |
| TALBOT | 10 | 4 | 40% | 2 | 50.0% | 20% |
| WASHINGTON | 45 | 26 | 58% | 20 | 76.9% | 44% |
| WICOMICO | 26 | 21 | 81% | 6 | 28.6% | 23% |
| WORCESTER | 18 | 12 | 67% | 6 | 50.0% | 33% |
| BALTIMORE CITY | 198 | 195 | 98% | 7 | 3.6% | 4% |
| Total | 1442 | 787 | 55% | 229 | 29.1% | 16% |



Technical Notes

The data in this report are collected from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). Student participation data for the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years are based on daily averages of the number of breakfasts and lunches served during August through June of each year, as provided by MSDE. Due to rounding, totals in the tables may not add up to 100 percent. This report utilizes district-level data. The 2009-2010 year report utilizes 12-month data. The 2010-2011 report utilizes August-June data. For the purposes of this report, the 2009-2010 school year data have been updated to accurately compare data using the August-June timeframe.

This report utilizes the 2010-2011 USDA reimbursement rates for the School Breakfast Program.

| Category | Non-Severe Need School | Severe Need School* | Price of Meals to Children |
|--|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Free | \$1.48 | \$1.78 | \$0 |
| Reduced-Price | \$1.18 | \$1.48 | \$0.30 (max. a school can charge) |
| Paid | \$0.26 | \$0.26 | Varies |
| *Schools with greater than 40 percent of their students purchasing free or reduced price lunches qualify as severe need. An additional \$0.28 for each free and reduced price breakfast is reimbursed. | | | |

Contact

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ⁱ Food Research and Action Center. (January 2012). *School Breakfast in America's Big Cities*. Washington, D.C.

ⁱⁱ Alnwick, Melanie. "Survey: 10 of the 15 Wealthiest Counties Are in DC Area." *Fox5 Money*, February 14, 2012. Washington, D.C.

<http://www.myfoxdc.com/dpp/money/survey-10-of-15-wealthiest-counties-are-in-dc-area-021412>

ⁱⁱⁱ Food Research and Action Center. (August 2011). *Food Hardship in America: Households with and without Children*. Washington, D.C.

http://frac.org/pdf/aug2011_food_hardship_report_children.pdf

^{iv} Food Research and Action Center. (September 2011). 2010 State Poverty Estimates. http://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/child_and_adult_poverty_tables_2010.pdf

http://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/child_and_adult_poverty_tables_2010.pdf

^v Austell, J., Bergsman, N., Bogdan, H., et al. (December 2011). *The State of Working Maryland*. Maryland Budget and Tax Policy Institute.

<http://www.marylandpolicy.org/dnn/ResearchAnalysis/StateofWorkingMaryland/Employment.aspx>

^{vi} Food Research and Action Center. (Fall 2011). *Breakfast for Learning*.

<http://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/breakfastforlearning.pdf>

^{vii} Food Research and Action Center. *Breakfast in the Classroom Fact Sheet*. http://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/universal_classroom_breakfast_fact_sheet.pdf

http://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/universal_classroom_breakfast_fact_sheet.pdf

^{viii} U.S. Census Bureau. 2010 ACS 5-Year Estimates. <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?refresh=t>

^{ix} Food Research and Action Center. (January 2012). *School Breakfast in America's Big Cities*. Washington, D.C.

^x Food Research and Action Center. (January 2012). *School Breakfast in America's Big Cities*. Washington, D.C.

^{xi} Maryland State Department of Education. *Meals for Achievement*.

http://marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/programs/schoolnutrition/meals_achieve.htm?WBCMODE=Ppercent25percent25percent25percent25percent25percent3epercent0dpercent25percent3epercent25percent3e

^{xii} Maryland State Department of Education. *Meals for Achievement*.

http://marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/programs/schoolnutrition/meals_achieve.htm?WBCMODE=Ppercent25percent25percent25percent25percent25percent3epercent0dpercent25percent3epercent25percent3e

^{xiii} Murphy, J., et al. *Maryland Meals for Achievement Year III Final Report*, October 2001. <http://www.eric.ed.gov/PDFS/ED460784.pdf>

