

Maryland Hunger Solutions

Policy Brief: School Breakfast in Maryland's Counties

March 2011

BREAKFAST IN MARYLAND'S COUNTIES: SUMMARY

- During the 2009-2010 school year, participation by low-income children in the school lunch program grew by 9,000 children and by 4,000 children in the breakfast program compared to the previous school year.
- But participation did not grow quickly enough in either breakfast or lunch to meet the need caused by the terrible recession and a weak economic recovery. Only 45.6 low-income children ate school breakfast for every 100 who ate lunch in 2009-2010, a slight decrease from the previous school year when the ratio was 45.7:100 and below the national average of 47.2:100.
- Participation varied widely from county to county, from a high of 84.1 low-income students participating in breakfast for every 100 who participate in lunch in Somerset County to a low of 20.6 in Howard County.
- Counties with the largest populations – Baltimore, Baltimore City, Montgomery, and Prince George's – all had rates below the state average and, because of their large populations, left tens of thousands of children out of the program and lost millions of dollars.
- Counties with a greater percentage of schools participating in Maryland Meals for Achievement (MMFA), a successful state program that supports breakfast in the classroom initiatives, also had higher participation rates in school breakfast. Maryland should preserve and increase funding for this vital program.
- Increasing participation in the School Breakfast Program so that 70 low-income children eat breakfast for every 100 who eat school lunch would give Maryland an additional \$14 million in federal funding to combat childhood hunger and improve nutrition – and would feed an additional 56,000 low-income children.
- In continued tough economic times, school districts have a critical responsibility to increase breakfast participation to ensure that children are starting the day ready to learn. They can do this by adopting programs like Breakfast in the Classroom, which is proven to increase participation, and conducting better and more frequent outreach.

INTRODUCTION

Maryland is one of the wealthiest states in the country, but a recent report by the Food Research and Action Center found that in 2009-2010, one in six households in our wealthy state struggled to afford enough food to feed their families. The recession, followed by a weak recovery, has led clearly to an increase in the number of families struggling to put food on the table. For children living in these households, a filling, nutritious meal every morning often is beyond the means of what their parents can provide.

The School Breakfast Program can help Maryland support families. It provides federal dollars to serve a nutritious morning meal to children so they start their day well-fed and ready to learn. All children enrolled in a school in Maryland can receive breakfast at school, and low-income children can receive a breakfast free or at a reduced price.

Participation in the School Breakfast Program is not growing fast enough to meet the growing need. During the 2009-2010 school year, more than 104,000 low-income children in Maryland ate breakfast at school. While this is an increase of 4,000 children from the previous school year, the actual reach of the program decreased as participation in school lunch grew at a faster rate (NSLP provided lunch to 9,000 more low-income children over the same time period). Only 45.6 low-income children ate breakfast for every 100 who participated in school lunch.

A national report on school breakfast by the Food Research and Action Center also notes that Maryland's participation rate is falling short. Maryland is below the national average (47.2:100) for participation in the School Breakfast Program, and ranks 24th among states reaching low-income children.

The state has taken a number of steps to increase participation in the School Breakfast Program, but more can be done at the state and school district levels to increase participation. This report analyzes Maryland's participation by low-income children, and makes recommendations on strategies the state can take to increase participation in the program.

Benefits of School Breakfast

The School Breakfast Program has an important role to play in meeting Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley's goal to end childhood hunger by 2015. It ensures that children do not start their day hungry and eat a healthy morning meal. It helps struggling families by reducing their food costs and easing the strain on household budgets. And, it plays a key role in boosting children's well-being and improving their school performance.

- **School breakfast promotes good health.** Research indicates that eating breakfast at school results in fewer visits to the school nurse, improves children's diets, and helps build healthy eating habits. Additionally, children who start the day with a good breakfast are less likely to be obese.
- **School breakfast helps children learn.** Numerous studies show that breakfast improves learning and attendance, and reduces behavior problems and tardiness. Children who eat breakfast at school closer to test-taking time, perform better on standardized tests than those who skip breakfast or eat breakfast at home.

School Breakfast Basics

The School Breakfast Program is administered at the federal level by the Food and Nutrition Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) at the state level.

Category	Non-Severe Need School	Severe Need School*	Price of Meals to Children
Free	\$1.46	\$1.74	\$0
Reduced Price	\$1.16	\$1.44	\$0.30 (Maximum)
Paid	\$0.26	\$0.26	Varies

Any public school, nonprofit private school or residential child care institution can offer the program, and any student attending a school that offers the program can eat breakfast. The federal government provides schools a reimbursement for each breakfast served. The student's household income determines the amount of the reimbursement provided by the federal government. Children fall into one of three reimbursement categories:

- **Free:** Children from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the federal poverty level eat at no cost to the family. Children who participate in TANF, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, or the Food Supplement Program (Maryland's name for the Food Stamp Program) also are entitled to eat at no cost. In addition, children who are migrant, homeless, or in the foster care system are eligible for free meals as well. Schools were reimbursed \$1.46 per breakfast for such children in the 2009-2010 school year.
- **Reduced Price:** Children from families with incomes between 130 and 185 percent of the poverty line can be charged no more than 30 cents per breakfast. In the school year 2009-2010, schools were reimbursed \$1.16 per breakfast for such children.
- **Paid:** Children with family incomes above 185 percent of the poverty line pay the charges which are set by the school, but schools also were reimbursed 26 cents per meal by USDA in school year 2009-2010.

Schools where at least 40 percent of the lunches served were free or reduced-price qualify for extra "severe need" reimbursements of \$0.28 per free or reduced-price breakfast served. Some schools eliminate the 30 cent co-payment for children eligible for reduced-price meals, or offer breakfast free to all students (as discussed later in this report).

KEY STATE FINDINGS FOR THE 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR

- **Only 45.6 low-income children in Maryland ate breakfast at school for every 100 who ate lunch at school in 2009-2010.** To measure the reach of the program, Maryland Hunger Solutions compares participation in breakfast to participation in lunch. While more than 228,000 low-income children in Maryland participated daily in the school lunch program, only 104,000 low-income children ate breakfast.
- **This ratio was a slight decrease from the 2008-2009 school year, when the breakfast to lunch ratio was 45.7:100.** Participation in the lunch program grew faster than the breakfast program.
- **Maryland is below the national average (47.2:100) for participation in the School Breakfast Program, according to a report by the Food Research and Action Center.** Maryland ranks 24th among states reaching low-income children.
- **Low participation in school breakfast means that Maryland is missing out on millions of federal dollars.** Low breakfast participation has significant educational consequences for the children who are not receiving a healthy meal, and it also has significant financial consequences for the state. In 2009-2010, Maryland schools lost at least \$1.46 in federal funding every day for every child who would have received a free breakfast and at least \$1.16 for every child who would have received a reduced-price breakfast, but was not served. (High-poverty schools lost additional “severe need” funding.) Low participation adds up to millions of dollars in federal child nutrition funding going unclaimed by the state every year. If Maryland had served 70 children school breakfast for every 100 eating school lunch during the 2009-2010 school year (a target that three counties have already met), more than 56,000 additional children would have received a healthy school breakfast every day. Then, the state would have received an additional \$14.3 million in federal child nutrition funding, plus severe need funding.

County	Ratio
TOP FIVE	
Somerset	84.1
Kent	76.2
Washington	74.5
Dorchester	68.0
Worcester	62.3
BOTTOM FIVE	
Queen Anne's	42.7
Charles	37.2
Calvert	35.9
Carroll	32.9
Howard	20.6

County	Ratio (2008-2009) F&RP SBP to NSLP	Ratio (2009-2010) F&RP SBP to NSLP	Change in Ratio of SBP to NSLP Participation	% Change in Number of F&RP Students in SBP
TOP FIVE				
Kent	66.2	76.2	10.0	15.1%
Carroll	29.1	32.9	3.8	13.0%
Somerset	75.1	84.1	9.0	11.9%
Worcester	56.4	62.3	5.9	10.5%
Washington	68.2	74.5	6.3	9.25
BOTTOM FIVE				
Caroline	45.6	44.8	-0.8	-1.7%
Dorchester	69.6	68.0	-1.6	-2.3%
Baltimore City	47.8	44.7	-3.1	-6.5%
St. Mary's	59.3	55.2	-4.0	-6.8%
Talbot	56.2	46.0	-10.3	-18.3%

Prince George's County Public Schools: Breakfast in the Classroom Initiative

Another important new initiative seeks to increase breakfast participation in Prince George's County Public Schools by bringing Breakfast in the Classroom to several schools starting in the spring of 2011. The effort is supported by Partners for Breakfast in the Classroom (member organizations are 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 is funded by the Walmart Foundation.

Prince George's County is one of five school districts (along with Dallas, Little Rock, Memphis, and Orlando) chosen for the project. The Walmart Foundation funding will help the selected school districts create and maintain breakfast in the classroom programs. The Prince George's County Public Schools plan to use the funding to purchase new equipment such as "point-of-sale" terminals and pin pads to support kiosk-style serving lines. Set up throughout the school, the kiosks will allow children to pick up breakfast before heading into the classroom. The school district projects that more than 4,000 additional students will receive school breakfast each morning as a result of this initiative. Maryland Hunger Solutions is a partner in these efforts, will inform the community about the project, and is developing outreach tools to support the project's success.

KEY COUNTY FINDINGS FOR THE 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR

- **Student participation in the School Breakfast Program in Maryland varies widely by county.** Ten counties provided breakfast to at least 50 low-income children eating breakfast for every 100 eating lunch each day, with three counties serving three out of every four low-income children eating lunch: Somerset County (84.1), Kent County (76.2), and Washington County (74.5). These three

2009-2010 School Year Top Five Counties in Lost Federal Funds: Amounts Forgone Because Counties Fall Short of Reaching 70 Free and Reduced Price (F&RP) Students in the School Breakfast Program per 100 F&RP Students in National School Lunch Program (NSLP)

County	Additional Students Who Would be Served	Dollars Lost
Prince George's	14,061	\$3,523,022
Baltimore City	11,139	\$2,783,088
Baltimore	8,018	\$2,026,770
Montgomery	7,044	\$1,921,115
Anne Arundel	2,962	\$737,801

counties also saw a substantial increase in the number of students participating in both the School Breakfast and National School Lunch Programs from 2008-2009 to 2009-2010— an increase attributed to the leadership of enthusiastic Food and Nutrition Services directors who believe in taking creative approaches (like breakfast in the classroom or other innovative programs) to ensure students are provided breakfast.

- **Counties with the largest populations failed to reach the most children and lost the most federal money.** Baltimore, Baltimore City, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties together would have served 40,000 additional children and would have received more than \$10 million in additional federal funding if the districts had served 70 low-income children breakfast for every 100 who ate lunch. Instead, all four counties were below the state average.
- **Seventeen of the 24 counties increased the number of low-income students participating in their breakfast programs, with 11 counties increasing participation by more than 10 percent.** The other six counties saw a decrease in participation, with Talbot and Wicomico Counties experiencing the largest decreases — 13 percent and 10 percent respectively. Because of its large size, Montgomery County's decrease of 2.1 percent translated into one of the biggest decreases in the number of low-income children eating breakfast.

Average Daily Participation of Children Eating Free and Reduced-Price Breakfast School Year 2008-2009 to School Year 2009-2010				
County	F&RP SBP Students (2008-2009)	F&RP SBP Students (2009-2010)	Change in ADP of F&RP SBP Students	% Change in Number of F&RP Students in SBP
TOP FIVE				
Carroll	758	942	184	24.3%
Kent	503	611	108	21.5%
Calvert	594	711	117	19.7%
Worcester	1,029	1,197	168	16.3%
Queen Anne's	430	491	61	14.2%
BOTTOM FIVE				
Montgomery	12,435	12,180	-255	-2.1%
Caroline	918	895	-23	-2.5%
St. Mary's	1,791	1,646	-145	-8.1%
Wicomico	2,949	2,667	-282	-9.6%
Talbot	596	521	-75	-12.6%

- **Even with increases in many counties, participation remains far too low.** Fourteen counties – including all but one (Washington) of the largest counties in the state measured by student population – still served fewer than 50 low-income students for every 100 who participate in lunch, and four counties served fewer than 40:100, with Howard County only reaching 20.6. While these four counties — Calvert, Carroll, Charles, and Howard — have some of the highest median incomes in the state and are among the wealthiest in the country, their affluence does not excuse poor participation rates among their low-income students.
- **Participation in Maryland Meals for Achievement (MMFA) leads to more low-income children eating school breakfast.** MMFA, an important state-funded breakfast program, reduces stigma and other barriers to participation by offering free breakfast in the classroom to all students in a given school. Schools where more than 40 percent of students are eligible for free and reduced-price meals potentially qualify for state funds that cover a proportion of meal costs not reimbursed by the federal government. (Funds are not adequate to reach all schools meeting the criteria.) School districts with a higher proportion of school sites participating in MMFA have higher breakfast participation rates. Counties — such as Dorchester, Kent, Somerset, and Washington — with a higher percentage of schools participating in the MMFA program also have higher breakfast participation rates.

The Partnership To End Childhood Hunger in Maryland

In November 2008, Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley vowed to end childhood hunger in Maryland in five years, and supported President Obama's goal of ending childhood hunger in the United States 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, which is a coalition of organizations and agencies at the national, state, and local levels working to end childhood hunger in the state.

Increasing participation in the School Breakfast Program is one of the core strategies to eliminate childhood hunger in Maryland. Maryland Hunger Solutions has been providing program expertise and data analysis, as well as working in partnership with other core advisory group organizations, to implement the "First Class Breakfast Project." This initiative plans to use alternative breakfast delivery models (such as breakfast in the classroom and "grab and go" breakfast) to improve breakfast participation, nutrition, and learning in 21 schools in seven counties (Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, and Baltimore City) throughout the state.

2009-2010 School Year Low-Income Student Participation in Free and Reduced-Price (F&RP) School Lunch (NSLP) and School Breakfast (SBP)					
County	F&RP SBP Students	F&RP NSLP Students	F&RP Students in SBP per 100 in NSLP	Additional Low-Income Students in Breakfast if 70 per 100 in Lunch	Additional Federal Funding if 70 Low-Income Breakfast Students per 100 Receiving Lunch
Allegany	2,048	3,387	60.5	322	\$76,902
Anne Arundel	5,625	12,267	45.9	2,962	\$737,801
Baltimore	12,860	29,826	43.1	8,018	\$2,026,770
Calvert	711	1,978	35.9	674	\$167,737
Caroline	895	1,997	44.8	503	\$137,133
Carroll	942	2,861	32.9	1,061	\$262,403
Cecil	2,311	4,045	57.1	521	\$131,373
Charles	1,970	5,291	37.2	1,734	\$433,697
Dorchester	1,405	2,065	68.0	40	\$10,087
Frederick	2,396	5,421	44.2	1,399	\$388,718
Garrett	883	1,641	53.8	266	\$63,847
Harford	3,550	7,517	47.2	1,713	\$428,118
Howard	1,112	5,386	20.6	2,659	\$680,424
Kent	611	802	76.2	*	*
Montgomery	12,180	27,462	44.4	7,044	\$1,921,115
Prince George's	22,490	52,216	43.1	14,061	\$3,523,022
Queen Anne's	491	1,149	42.7	314	\$76,564
St. Mary's	1,646	2,981	55.2	440	\$122,918
Somerset	1,059	1,259	84.1	*	*
Talbot	521	1,134	46.0	273	\$75,138
Washington	4,911	6,595	74.5	*	*
Wicomico	2,667	4,977	53.6	817	\$233,346
Worcester	1,197	1,920	62.3	147	\$32,236
Baltimore City	19,669	44,013	44.7	11,139	\$2,783,088
STATE*	104,150	228,189	45.6	56,104	\$14,312,438

RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to reduce hunger and support the educational and health potential of students, particularly low-income students, schools, advocates, and policymakers should make increased availability and participation in school breakfast one of their highest priorities. Adequate nutrition and freedom from hunger are essential for good health and academic achievement, and yet these goals are not always achievable for families which are struggling to make ends meet. The School Breakfast Program makes critical contributions to children's nutrition, education, and health. The following are recommendations for Maryland and its localities to improve access to the program:

- Make breakfast more accessible to low-income children by getting it out of the cafeteria and in front of children when the school day begins.** Schools can take an important lesson from MMFA: Breakfast in the classroom works, and they should adopt this proven program. When breakfast is served 30 to 60 minutes before school starts, many students miss out due to conflicting bus schedules, peer pressure to play or socialize with friends, lack of time, or stigma. But when breakfast is incorporated into the scheduled school day, it becomes more accessible and convenient to all. For example, Elmwood Elementary in Baltimore County recently instituted a "grab and go" program that allows students to take a bagged breakfast from the cafeteria and bring it into the classroom to eat. Participation has almost doubled among students, and the school nurse is seeing fewer hunger-related visits.
- Preserve and expand funding for Maryland Meals for Achievement.** MMFA has demonstrated its success by increasing breakfast participation among all students, but most importantly those eligible for free and reduced-price meals. But the program is underfunded. For the 2009-2010 school year, the program's

funding was cut to \$2.8 million dollars — enough to cover fewer than one-third of the eligible schools. Only 193 public schools across Maryland were funded to participate in the MMFA program, out of 682 eligible. MMFA also yields a significant return on investment to the state. According to an internal review by the Maryland State Department of Education, every \$1 that the state invested in MMFA yielded more than \$3 in federal school breakfast reimbursements. As the state's fiscal condition improves, MMFA should be adequately funded so that all eligible schools can participate.

- **Improve direct certification.** Maryland (like all other states) is required to directly certify children who live in households that participate in the Food Supplement Program (FSP) for free school meals, and can directly certify children whose households participate in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or the Food Distribution Program for Indian Reservations. Direct certification helps to ensure that many children in need of help are qualified for free school meals in the simplest possible way, and reduces paperwork for both the family and the school. During the 2009-2010 school year, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) moved to conducting direct certification twice a year instead of just once a year. This change resulted in an improvement by 11 percentage points in the number of children in FSP households who were directly certified for free school meals, increasing it from 74 to 85 percent. Based on this success, MSDE is now conducting direct certification every other month. Maryland should continue to build on this success by moving to conduct direct certification every month.
- **Promote and increase awareness of the School Breakfast Program.** As increasing numbers of families in Maryland become financially eligible to receive free and reduced-price school meals, MSDE, schools, food service vendors, and advocates need to make sure that eligible children and families know the benefits of the program and participate in it. Aggressive outreach, new and innovative marketing plans, and promotional activities are a few ways to boost awareness among students, families, and communities.
- **Eliminate the reduced-price category.** Households that qualify for reduced-price meals often have a difficult time paying even the reduced-price school breakfast and lunch co-payments. School districts can offer meals for free to students who are eligible for reduced-price meals. Since the 2002-2003 school year, Washington County has eliminated the reduced-price meal category and has continued to serve breakfast for free to all students whose family incomes fall under 185 percent of the federal poverty level. This change is credited with increasing participation in the program. Several states – Colorado, Maine, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington – have taken steps to eliminate the reduced-price category.
- **Ensure that all eligible children are qualified for free or reduced-price school meals.** As families continue to struggle with lost jobs or reduced wages, schools should make sure the families get applications for school meals so children are qualified quickly to receive them. The weak economy has increased the number of children who are eligible to receive free or reduced-price school meals. Yet, in some counties and many schools, this increase in eligibility has not corresponded with increases in school breakfast participation. Schools should reach out to enroll students who may become eligible during the school year, and should make a corresponding effort to ensure that these newly eligible students participate in school meal programs.

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Student Participation in School Lunch (NSLP) and School Breakfast (SBP) School Years 2008-2009 and 2009-2010											
County	2008-2009				2009-2010				Change in the Ratio of SBP to NSLP Participation	Change in the Number of F&RP Students in SBP	Percent Change in the Number of F&RP Students in SBP
	F&RP NSLP Students	F&RP SBP Students	F&RP Students in SBP per 100 in NSLP	County Rank	F&RP NSLP Students	F&RP SBP Students	F&RP Students in SBP per 100 in NSLP	County Rank			
Allegany	3,590	2,022	56.3	7	3,387	2,048	60.5	6	4.2	26	1.3%
Anne Arundel	11,514	5,343	46.4	13	12,267	5,625	45.9	13	-0.5	282	5.3%
Baltimore	27,771	11,952	43.0	19	29,826	12,860	43.1	18	0.1	908	7.6%
Calvert	1,801	594	33.0	22	1,978	711	35.9	22	2.9	117	19.7%
Caroline	2,014	918	45.6	15	1,997	895	44.8	14	-0.8	-23	-2.5%
Carroll	2,604	758	29.1	23	2,861	942	32.9	23	3.8	184	24.3%
Cecil	3,767	2,047	54.3	9	4,045	2,311	57.1	7	2.8	264	12.9%
Charles	5,128	1,829	35.7	21	5,291	1,970	37.2	21	1.5	141	7.7%
Dorchester	1,913	1,333	69.6	2	2,065	1,405	68.0	4	-1.6	72	5.4%
Frederick	5,511	2,403	43.6	16	5,421	2,396	44.2	17	0.6	-7	-0.3%
Garrett	1,483	785	52.9	10	1,641	883	53.8	9	0.9	98	12.5%
Harford	6,918	3,191	46.1	14	7,517	3,550	47.2	11	1.1	359	11.3%
Howard	5,173	986	19.1	24	5,386	1,112	20.6	24	1.5	126	12.8%
Kent	759	503	66.2	4	802	611	76.2	2	10	108	21.5%
Montgomery	28,551	12,435	43.6	16	27,462	12,180	44.4	16	0.8	-255	-2.1%
Prince George's	48,373	20,877	43.2	18	52,216	22,490	43.1	19	-0.1	1,613	7.7%
Queen Anne's	1,036	430	41.5	20	1,149	491	42.7	20	1.2	61	14.2%
St. Mary's	3,023	1,791	59.3	5	2,981	1,646	55.2	8	-4.1	-145	-8.1%
Somerset	1,236	929	75.1	1	1,259	1,059	84.1	1	9	130	14.0%
Talbot	1,060	596	56.2	8	1,134	521	46.0	12	-10.2	-75	-12.6%
Washington	6,460	4,404	68.2	3	6,595	4,911	74.5	3	6.3	507	11.5%
Wicomico	5,583	2,949	52.8	11	4,977	2,667	53.6	10	0.8	-282	-9.6%
Worcester	1,824	1,029	56.4	6	1,920	1,197	62.3	5	5.9	168	16.3%
Baltimore City	41,792	19,982	47.8	12	44,013	19,669	44.7	15	-3.1	-313	-1.6%
STATE	218,882	100,086	45.7		228,189	104,150	45.6		-0.1	4,064	4.1%

RESOURCES

Maryland Hunger Solutions, the state's leading anti-hunger and nutrition organization, is dedicated to ending hunger in Maryland by raising awareness of the problem among the public, media, and policymakers, conducting outreach, and changing policy and practice to connect struggling families to the School Breakfast Program and other federal nutrition programs. Maryland Hunger Solutions is an initiative of the Food Research and Action Center. Maryland Hunger Solutions is a resource with Maryland-specific information and resources on the School Breakfast Program, including county-by-county data and a guide on ways to improve the collection of school meal applications. www.mdhungersolutions.org

The **Food Research and Action Center (FRAC)** is the leading national nonprofit organization working to improve public policies and public-private partnerships to eradicate hunger and undernutrition in the United States. FRAC has information and resources on the School Breakfast Program and other federal nutrition programs, including state-by-state data and a toolkit on ways to expand breakfast participation. www.frac.org

The **Maryland State Department of Education** promotes the nutritional well-being of students as part of the effort to offer all children in Maryland a world-class education. It administers several federal nutrition programs, including the School Breakfast Program. MSDE works to enhance child nutrition programs through initiatives, including the Maryland Meals for Achievement program and the Governor's Partnership to End Childhood Hunger. www.eatsmartmaryland.org.

The **U.S. Department of Agriculture** has a toolkit for schools and advocates to help start and maintain successful breakfast programs. www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Breakfast/toolkit

2009-2010 Maryland Meals for Achievement Program				
County	Total Number of Schools in County	Number of Schools Eligible for MMFA	Number of Schools Participating in MMFA	Percent of Eligible Sites Participating in MMFA
Allegany	24	17	8	47.1%
Anne Arundel	119	28	18	64.3%
Baltimore	166	80	24	30.0%
Calvert	24	0	0	N/A
Caroline	11	8	3	37.5%
Carroll	42	2	1	50.0%
Cecil	30	9	7	77.8%
Charles	37	9	4	44.4%
Dorchester	13	10	6	60.0%
Frederick	65	8	6	75.0%
Garrett	16	12	7	58.3%
Harford	53	15	6	40.0%
Howard	72	3	1	33.3%
Kent	8	5	4	80.0%
Montgomery	215	73	28	38.4%
Prince George's	213	146	20	13.7%
Queen Anne's	15	2	2	100.0%
St. Mary's	25	6	6	100.0%
Somerset	9	9	5	55.6%
Talbot	10	4	2	50.0%
Washington	44	22	17	77.3%
Wicomico	26	21	5	23.8%
Worcester	18	10	5	50.0%
Baltimore City	193	183	8	4.4%
State Total	1448	682	193*	28.2%

Based on MSDE F&R enrollment data as of Oct 31, 2008 (accessed at http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/NR/rdonlyres/CA589350-E389-4E1E-AEA5-AC761A7F8264/19450/LEAFreeReduced_rev309.xls)

TECHNICAL NOTES

The student participation data in this report were provided by the Maryland State Department of Education. This report does not include students that attend the SEED School of Maryland or non-public schools. Due to rounding, totals in the tables may not add up to 100 percent.

Student Participation: Student participation data for 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 school years are based on the daily averages of the number of free and reduced-price breakfasts and lunches served from July to June of each year, divided by the total number of serving days for each county.

The Cost of Low Participation Rates: For each county, MDHS calculates the average daily number of children receiving free or reduced-price breakfasts for every 100 children who on an average day, were receiving free or reduced-price lunches during the same school year. Based on the performance of the top counties, MDHS sets a benchmark of every county reaching an average ratio of 70 children receiving free or reduced-price breakfast for every 100 receiving free or reduced-price lunch.

MDHS then calculates the number of additional children who would be reached if each county reached this 70:100 ratio. It then multiplies this "unserved" population by the reimbursement rate by the number of breakfast service days for each county. MDHS assumes each county's mix of free and reduced-price students would apply to any new participants, and conservatively assumes that no additional student's meal is reimbursed at the higher rate that severe need schools receive.

Maryland Meals for Achievement Table: The Maryland Meals table is based on MSDE F&R enrollment data as of October 31, 2008 (accessed at <http://bit.ly/gOxAvr>). The table does not include non-public schools and the SEED School of Maryland. There are a total of 193 public schools participating in MMFA.

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