

The Maryland Meals for Achievement (MMFA) for Teens Act

Increase Access to School Breakfast for 90,000 High Schoolers

What is the Need?

- The lack of reliable access to healthy food, or **food insecurity**, is a condition which disproportionately affects low-income adolescents. A recent Children’s HealthWatch study in Baltimore found that 30 percent of students aged 11-16 and 48 percent of students aged 12-17 are food insecure.¹
- Food insecurity has been shown to negatively impact health and school performance.
- The **School Breakfast Program** is effective at reducing food insecurity; however, high school students are significantly less likely to participate in school breakfast programs.

How Can We Increase Access to School Breakfast?

- **Maryland Meals for Achievement (MMFA)** is a successful state-funded program that provides universal access to **breakfast in the classroom** in high-poverty schools. MMFA contributes to long-term success by ensuring that all students can start the day ready to learn.
- 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.² In addition, MMFA schools have fewer suspensions, higher test scores, and fewer tardy students.²
- MMFA benefits over 230,000 students in 462 schools.³ However, current funding only allows for **54 percent of eligible schools to participate**.



HEALTHY STUDENTS ARE BETTER LEARNERS

What Does this Bill Do?

- While 82 percent of eligible elementary schools participate in MMFA, **only 24 percent** of eligible high schools are benefiting from MMFA. The low utilization of MMFA by high schools is due to **insufficient funding** for the program and the requirement that breakfast be **served** in the classrooms.
- Secondary schools will be permitted to offer a **“Grab and Go”** breakfast for greater efficiency and to accommodate wider food choices.
- This bill will allow **90,000 students** in **93 high-poverty high schools** across the state to start their school day ready to learn.
- MMFA is a smart investment: for every dollar, \$5.46 is returned in federal reimbursements. An additional **\$2.7M** will fund all 93 MMFA-eligible high schools.

¹ http://www.childrenshealthwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/fiamongbaltkids_brief_jan11.pdf

² <http://www.eric.ed.gov/PDFS/ED460784.pdf>.

³ http://marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/programs/schoolnutrition/meals_achieve.htm



Maryland Hunger Solutions

Ending hunger and promoting well-being

The following Maryland high schools are eligible, but not participating in Maryland Meals for Achievement

County	School Name	
Allegany	Allegany High	Mountain Ridge High School
	Eckhart Alternative Program	Transition Prgm at Cumberland
	Ft Hill High	
Anne Arundel	Glen Burnie Senior	
Baltimore County	Chesapeake High	Overlea High
	Dundalk High	Owings Mills High
	Kenwood High	Parkville High
	Lansdowne High	Patapsco High & Center for Arts
	Milford Mill Academy	Randallstown High
	New Town High	Woodlawn High
Baltimore City	28 high schools in Baltimore City are eligible, but not participating	
Cecil	North East High	School of Technology
Charles	Lackey High School	
Dorchester	Cambridge-South Dorchester High	North Dorchester High
Frederick	Frederick High	Success Program
Garrett	Northern Garrett Co High	
Harford	Aberdeen High	Joppatowne High
	Edgewood High	
Kent	Kent County High	
Montgomery	Blair G Ewing Center	Springbrook High
	Gaithersburg High	Watkins Mill High
	Northwood High	Wheaton High
Prince George's	Academy of Health Sciences at Prince George's	Friendly High
	Alternative High	Green Valley Instructional
	Bladensburg High	High Point High
	Central High	Largo High School
	Charles Herbert Flowers High	Laurel High
	Crossland High	Northwestern High
	Dr Henry A Wise Jr	Oxon Hill High
	Duval High	Parkdale High
	Eleanor Roosevelt High	Potomac High
	Fairmont Heights High	Suitland High
	Forestville High	Surrattsville High
Somerset	Crisfield High	Washington High
Wicomico	Parkside High	Wicomico High
Worcester	Pocomoke High	Snow Hill Sr High
TOTAL: 93 High Schools in Maryland with 90,000 students		