

# Maryland Meals for Achievement

## *Breakfast in the Classroom Program*

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*Maryland Meals for Achievement creates long-term success by ensuring that all students in high-poverty schools can start their day ready to learn with breakfast in their classroom.*

### Breakfast After the Bell

**School breakfast** can have a powerful impact on kids facing hunger. The traditional method of serving the meal before the school day starts, however, is often ineffective. As a result, only a fraction of the students who may need this meal are able to access it.

When schools **make breakfast part of the school day**, serving it once school starts instead of before the school day, it reaches more of the kids who need it.



### Maryland Meals for Achievement

MMFA is a successful state-funded program that allows high-poverty schools to provide free **breakfast in the classroom** to all students.

A school is eligible if > 40% of students qualify for free or reduced-price meals.

Schools shift the time they offer breakfast, serving it as **part of the school day** (like lunch) instead of before school starts.

MMFA supports both **health** and **learning**; studies show that students in MMFA schools demonstrate

- better educational performance,
- improved health and
- a decrease in discipline problems.

### MMFA by the Numbers

**522 schools**  
participate in MMFA

**258,984 students**  
benefit from the MMFA program

**\$7.55 million**  
in state funding supports MMFA schools

**473 schools**  
are currently eligible, but unable to participate in MMFA due to current funding

**+\$5.46 federal reimbursements**  
are leveraged for every \$1 in MMFA funding

## Did You Know That 1 in 7 Children Live in Families Struggling with Hunger?

Hunger affects children in every community in the United States.

Ending hunger means ensuring every child has **reliable access** to the healthy food they need.

**Free and reduced-price school meals** work to close the gap between kids who have enough to eat and those who don't.

## Show Your Support

The current level of state funding, \$7.55 million, allows about half of all MMFA-eligible schools to participate in the program.

More than **130,000 students** across the state are in schools that are MMFA-eligible but not able to offer breakfast in the classroom due to insufficient funding.

Let the Governor know that you support MMFA and ask for an increased appropriation that is sufficient to fund all eligible schools.

## ABOUT NO KID HUNGRY

No child should go hungry in America, but 1 in 7 kids will face hunger this year. Using proven, practical solutions, No Kid Hungry is ending childhood hunger today by ensuring that kids start the day with a nutritious breakfast, are able to get the nutrition they need during the summertime, and families learn the skills they need to shop and cook on a budget. When we all work together, we can make sure kids get the healthy food they need. No Kid Hungry is a campaign of national anti-hunger organization Share Our Strength. Join us at [NoKidHungry.org](http://NoKidHungry.org).



MARYLAND

## Want to Learn More?

Find more information about the school meal programs and check to see if your school is eligible to participate in Maryland Meals for Achievement.

Visit the No Kid Hungry Maryland website:

[state.nokidhungry.org/maryland/](http://state.nokidhungry.org/maryland/)

