

Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program



MARYLAND

Successful program creates long-term success by ensuring that students in high-poverty schools start the day with breakfast, ready to learn.

What Is MMFA?

Launched in 1998, MMFA is a successful state program that allows high-poverty schools to provide free Breakfast After the Bell to all students at no cost.

How Does MMFA Work?

Eligible schools must have at least 40% of its students qualify for free or reduced-price meals. Schools must also shift the time they serve breakfast, serving it as part of the school day (like lunch) instead of before school starts.



The MMFA Investment

Since 2018, the State of Maryland has supported the MMFA program with \$7.55 million annually, an amount that supplements the federally funded School Breakfast Program in 522 schools allowing students to eat breakfast at no cost. Every \$1.00 of state MMFA funding leverages \$5.50 in federal reimbursements.

The MMFA Need

More than three hundred additional high-poverty schools are eligible, but unable to participate in MMFA due to insufficient funding for the program. To bring MMFA to all schools eligible would require a budget of an additional \$3.9 million so that all of the more than 185,500 students in 310 schools can benefit.

MMFA Is Good For Students, Good For Schools

Nearly 64% of students in MMFA schools participate in the school breakfast program (compared with 31% of other Maryland public schools.) This morning meal makes a difference; studies show that students in MMFA schools demonstrate better educational performance, improved health and a decrease in discipline problems.

BY THE NUMBERS

\$3.9 million

Additional amount needed each year to reach 100% of high-poverty schools.

185,500

of *new* students who would receive free school breakfast under MMFA with *Full Funding*.

618

of schools currently eligible for MMFA funding in MD, excluding CEP schools.

522

of schools able to participate in MMFA under the current funding levels.