



Maryland HB 1145

Maryland Meals for Achievement Fund - Establishment

**Recommended Position:**

Support  Support with Amendment(s)  Oppose  No Position

The Maryland School Nutrition Association (MdSNA) represents the thousands of school food service employees across the State of Maryland who served over 30 million meals to students last year. As President of the Association, this testimony is presented to provide them a voice.

House Bill 1145 requires the Comptroller to distribute certain sales and tax revenues from snack foods into the Maryland Meals for Achievement Fund to be used for the State Free Feeding Program and Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program. This will continue to support a successful state-funded program providing universal access to breakfast in the classroom in high-poverty schools, ensuring all students can start the day ready to learn.

Additionally, the Maryland Meals for Achievement Fund will offset reduced priced meals for families in Maryland who fall within the income guidelines for a reduced-priced breakfast and/or lunch who may not be able to afford these meals. Reduced price eligible children that are not able to provide their own funding for meals will often accrue debt in school cafeterias that may never be repaid. The federal government does not cover funding for families who accrue unpaid debts. Children qualified for reduced priced meals will receive free breakfast by school year 2022 and lunch by school year 2023.

Thank you for your time and attention to reviewing this testimony.

Kristen Sudzina, SNS  
President, Maryland School Nutrition Association