



To: Chair Anne R. Kaiser and Vice-Chair Alonzo T. Washington, House Ways and Means Committee
From: The Partnership to End Childhood Hunger in Maryland
Re: Support for House Bill 1145, with Amendment
Date: February 28, 2020

The Partnership to End Childhood Hunger in Maryland is a coalition of non-profits, community groups, advocates, faith communities, and public agencies that was founded in 2008. The Partnership works to increase food security and leveraging nutrition programs is our key strategy. We focus on enhancing food access through school breakfast, school lunch, afterschool meals, and summer meals, as well as the Maryland Meals for Achievement (MMFA) program, Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), Women, Infants and Children’s Program (WIC) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

The Partnership to End Childhood Hunger urges your support of House Bill 1145 – Maryland Meals for Achievement Fund Establishment to ensure students in high-poverty schools have access to a nutritious school breakfast in order to start the day ready to learn. Currently, the Maryland Meals for Achievement Program provides universal breakfast in the classroom in 522 Maryland Schools.¹ For more than twenty years, the MMFA program has successfully eliminated the barriers to participation in school breakfast including stigma, cost, and timing. Research has shown that students in MMFA schools demonstrate improved educational performance, improved health, and fewer behavioral issues.² In addition, schools that participate in MMFA have fewer suspensions, higher test scores, and improved student attendance.³ MMFA not only improves academic outcomes and reduces health disparities, but also has significant economic impacts. For every dollar, \$5.46 is returned in federal school meal reimbursements, making MMFA a smart investment. **Unfortunately, there are currently over 300 schools that are eligible for MMFA but unable to participate due to insufficient state funding.** (Please see table on page 3 for a list of these schools.) To fully fund the MMFA program, an additional \$4 million in state funding is needed.

In addition to MMFA, HB 1145 also supports **the Maryland Cares for Kids program**. This state-funded initiative eliminates school meal co-pays for low-income students that are eligible for reduced-price school meals. The Maryland Cares for Kids program relieves the cost burden of school meals for 54,638 Maryland children and their families. The Partnership strongly supports both programs, as they are best practices for increasing access to the healthy food students need to be ready to learn.

HB 1145 Amendment. Revenue estimates for HB 1145 are over \$25 million annually, which is more than the amount needed to fully fund both MMFA and Maryland Cares for Kids. Therefore, we support adding the Summer SNAP for Children program as a beneficiary in the MMFA Fund. During school breaks, low-income families that typically rely on free and reduced-priced school meals no longer have access to that critical support. Summer SNAP for Children provides an additional \$30 in SNAP benefits during each summer month and \$10 over the winter break for very

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low-income children who receive SNAP benefits. This program is based on a national pilot that significantly reduced food insecurity and improved diet. However, only \$200,000 has been allocated in the 2020 state budget. As a result, the program is currently able to serve a fraction of the children in need. A fully funded Summer SNAP for Children program requires a total of \$18.5 M in state funding.

The Partnership to End Childhood Hunger **urges a favorable report** on House Bill 1145 and encourages inclusion of the Summer SNAP for Children program in the Maryland Meals for Achievement Fund.

Respectfully submitted by The Policy Committee of the Partnership to End Childhood Hunger in Maryland. Please contact Policy Committee Chair, Noora Kanfash, at nkanfash@strength.org if you have any questions.

¹ <http://marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Pages/School-Community-Nutrition/MMFADData.aspx>

² <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED460784.pdf>

³ <https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/breakfastforlearning-1.pdf>

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**The Maryland Meals for Achievement Program (MMFA)
Schools that are MMFA-Eligible but Not Participating
School Year 2019-2020**

Allegany County (10 schools)	John Humbird Elementary Beall Elementary Bel Air Elementary Eckhart Alt. Program	Mt. Savage Elementary Mt. Savage Middle Parkside School Salem School	Transition Program at Cumberland West Side Elementary
Anne Arundel (1)	Meade Senior High		
Baltimore County (17)	Arbutus Middle Catonsville Ctr. Alt. Stud. Dundalk High Franklin Middle Kenwood High Landsdowne High Meadowood Edu. Center	Milford Mill Academy Northwest Academy Overlea High Owings Mills High Parkville High Parkville Middle Pikesville Middle	Randallstown High Sisters Academy of Baltimore Sparrows Point Middle Villa Maria School Woodlawn High
Baltimore City (167)	Nearly all, 167 out of 169, Baltimore City Schools are eligible		
Calvert (1)	Patuxent Appeal Elem.		
Cecil (2)	Cap the Providence School	High Road School	
Charles (1)	Robert D Stelthem Ed. Ctr.		
Frederick (2)	Rock Creek School	Sabillasville Elementary	
Garrett (2)	Accident Elementary	Dennett Road	
Harford (2)	Edgewood High	John Archer School	
Howard (2)	Oakland Mills High	Phillips Program	
Kent (1)	Kent County High		
Montgomery (9)	Don Bosco Cristo Rey Foundation School Fox Chapel Elementary	Gaithersburg High Great Seneca Creek ES Lanthrop Smith Center	Northwood High Springbrook High Wheaton High

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**The Maryland Meals for Achievement Program (MMFA)
Schools that are MMFA-Eligible but Not Participating
School Year 2019-2020 (continued)**

Prince George's (78)	Adelphi Elementary	Friendly High	Mt Rainier Elementary	
	Andrew Jackson Academy	G.J. Ghoullson Middle	Nicholas Orem Middle	
	Annapolis Road Academy	G.N. Spellman Elem.	Northwestern High	
	Beacon Heights Elem.	Glenarden Woods Elem.	Oxon Hill High	
	Benjamin Stoddert Middle	Glenn Dale Elementary	Oxon Hill Middle	
	Bladensburg High	Glenridge Elementary	Parkdale High	
	Buck Lodge Middle	Greenbelt Middle	Port Towns Elementary	
	C Elizabeth Rieg Regional	High Point High	Potomac High	
	Calverton Elementary	Hyattsville Middle	Riverdale Elementary	
	Carrollton Elementary	Int'l HS@ L. Park	Robert Frost Elementary	
	Central High	Int'l HS @ Largo	Roger Heights Elementary	
	Chapel Forge Early Child.	Isaac J Gourdine Middle	Seat Pleasant Elementary	
	Charles Carroll Middle	J.E. Duckworth Regional	Springhill Lake Elementary	
	C.H. Flowers High	James Madison Middle	Stephen Decatur Middle	
	Cherokee Lane Elementary	James McHenry Elem.	Suitland High	
	Clinton Grove Elementary	James R. Randall Elem.	Surrattsville High	
	Croom Vocational	Kenmoor Middle School	Tall Oaks High	
	Crossland High	Kettering Middle School	Templeton Elementary	
	Dodge Park Elementary	Lamont Elementary	The Foundation School	
	Drew Freeman Middle	Langley Pk/McCormick ES	Thomas Johnson Middle	
	Duval High	Largo High	Thomas Pullen School	
	D.D. Eisenhower Middle	Laurel High	Thomas S Stone Elementary	
	Edward M. Felegy Elem.	Lewisdale Elementary	Thurgood Marshall Middle	
	Ernest Everett Just Middle	Lincoln Charter School	Walker Mill Middle School	
	Fairmont Heights High	Margaret Brent Reg. C	William Paca Elementary	
	Frances Fuchs Early Child.	M.L. King Jr. MS	William Wirt Middle	
	Somerset (1)	Alternative Learning Ctr.		
	Washington (2)	Cedar Ridge Children's	Public Service Academy	
	Wicomico (10)	Bennett Middle	James M Bennett High	Wicomico High
		Choices Academy	Parkside High	Wicomico Middle
Delmar Elementary		Pittsville Elem./Middle		
East Salisbury Elementary		Salisbury Middle		

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