



**HB514 EDUCATION – MARYLAND MEALS FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN-CLASSROOM BREAKFAST
PROGRAM – ANNUAL APPROPRIATION**

February 28, 2023

APPROPRIATIONS

SUPPORT

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) supports **HB514 – Education – Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program – Annual Appropriation**. This bill increases the annual appropriation required by the Governor for the Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program from \$7,550,000 to \$12,050,000.

AACPS recognizes the importance of developing a healthy school environment which promotes student health, well-being, and the ability to learn. Healthy school environments meet nutrition standards and guidelines for food and beverages available on the school campus in accordance with State and federal laws and regulations which promote food comprised of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and protein. These State and federal requirements, in conjunction with locally developed and implemented policies, appropriately ensure that public schools meet the nutritional needs of students.

AACPS has historically participated in the Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program which offers students in eligible schools with a free breakfast. Currently, 59 AACPS schools participated in this program. This program has been credited with improving academic, behavior, and the well-being of students. AACPS supports expanded funding for this program which promotes student health, well-being, and the ability to learn.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on HB514.