



Senate Bill 559

Education - Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program - Annual Appropriation

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Appropriations Committee

Date: March 29, 2023

From: Brianna January

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 559. This bill provides much-needed State support to supplement federal aid in providing free in-class breakfast to Maryland students in need. The bill increases the annual State appropriation for the Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program from \$7.5 million to just over \$12 million.

Research is clear: access to healthy, quality in-school meals improves students' educational experiences and learning performance. Furthermore, need and eligibility for free and reduced meals is growing statewide – as evidenced by the recently uncovered additional 111,000 students who should receive free and reduced school meals.

Counties are proud to partner with the state and federal government to help provide Maryland students in need with quality, in-class breakfast. Hundreds of Maryland schools across 23 counties currently participate in the Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program (Baltimore City already has a universal breakfast program).

SB 559 provides additional annual State funding for this critical program, making a difference in the educational experience and lives of kids statewide. Counties welcome the additional support SB 559 would provide this program and our schools. For these reasons, MACo **SUPPORTS** SB 559 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.