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BILL NO.: **HB 386**

TITLE: Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program – Alterations (Maryland Meals for Achievement Flexibility Act of 2024)

SPONSOR: Delegate Feldmark

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: January 31, 2024

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 386 – Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program – Alterations (Maryland Meals for Achievement Flexibility Act of 2024). If enacted, this legislation would provide needed flexibility to the Maryland Meals for Achievement (MMFA) In-Classroom Breakfast program for elementary schools. In-class breakfast as it stands includes a number of expenses- additional refrigeration, transport carts, and staffing. HB 386 would allow elementary schools to utilize a grab-and-go breakfast option, which is more efficient in both time and resources.

Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) did not participate in the MMFA in-classroom breakfast program for elementary schools because the associated expenses of in-classroom delivery are cost prohibitive. BCPS estimates that approximately 90 elementary schools could be eligible for \$500,000 annually, if they participated in the program. Now that BCPS is offering universal school meals, having the flexibility to participate in the in-classroom breakfast program for elementary schools in a cost-effective manner would make it more sustainable for BCPS to continue offering universal meals in the future.

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 386. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.