



Testimony in Support of HB 386 Maryland Meals for Achievement in Classroom Breakfast Program & Program Flexibility Act 2024

Date January 31,2024

Good Afternoon Chairman Attenbeary , Delegate Feldmary, and committee members,

The Food and Nutrition Department of St. Mary's County Public Schools greatly support the current legislation HB386 & SB425 which would allow our Maryland Meals for Achievement elementary schools to serve breakfast in the Grab and Go style or Breakfast after the Bell. The Grab and Go model worked well at the middle and high school level in St. Mary's County. We have implemented Grab and Go and Breakfast after the Bell in our secondary schools. Both models helped increase participation and point of service accountability and eased the classroom impact for teachers. We also highly encourage you to help us support the needs of our students by increasing flexibility for schools by enabling more children to participate in no-cost school breakfast through the Maryland Meals for Achievement Program. Here in St. Mary's County Public Schools, we see the faces of our children who want breakfast but will not take the food unless the meal is provided for free. Help Maryland children eat with dignity, help fuel the minds of a brighter tomorrow for Maryland children. Continue to lead Maryland! Provide our children with a strong future by reducing hunger, increasing access to nutritious breakfast and increasing our flexibility in the ways we can serve our students.

Thank you Chairman Attenbeary, Delegate Feldmary, and committee members for allowing our brief statement of support.