



HB386 – MARYLAND MEALS FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN-CLASSROOM BREAKFAST PROGRAM – ALTERATIONS (MARYLAND MEALS FOR ACHIEVEMENT FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 2024)

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WAYS AND MEANS

SUPPORT

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) supports **HB386 Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program – Alterations (Maryland Meals for Achievement Flexibility Act of 2024)**. This bill clarifies that the Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program permits secondary schools to serve breakfast, including from “Grab and Go” carts, in a broadly accessible part of the school. Additionally, the bill allows elementary schools to serve breakfast in a broadly accessible part of the school, including “Grab and Go” carts, if approved by the State Department of Education and if students are allowed to consume the meal in the classroom after the start of the school day.

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 school campus in accordance with State and federal laws and regulations which promote food comprised of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and proteins. 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. Currently, 65 AACPS schools participate in this program that has been credited with improving academics, behavior, and the well-being of students. AACPS supports the flexibility this bill provides to serve breakfast to elementary school students outside of the classroom, through initiatives such as “Grab and Go” breakfast. This change in law will allow AACPS to serve breakfast in the manner that best meets the needs of our students and our schools at the elementary level. This flexibility was previously only available at the secondary level. This change in program procedures at the elementary level will align the procedures for this program at all grade levels.

Furthermore, the bill eliminates the requirement that teachers serve meals in the classroom. Which in turn means AACPS does not have to provide training to teachers on how to serve meals in classrooms and removes additional staff from the procedures to ensure accountability for the meals claimed.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on HB386.