

**The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners
Supports Sente Bill 769
Community Eligibility Provision Expansion Program – Establishment**

February 26, 2025

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners supports Sente Bill 769 because it would provide funding to eligible schools that participate in the federal community eligibility provision of the child nutrition programs. This bill is an outgrowth of the report that the Maryland State Department of Education provided to the Maryland General Assembly on a cost estimate for providing free breakfast and lunch to all students in public schools in the State.

In Baltimore City, the Board is serving all free breakfast and lunch to all students under the CEP program. Through FY27, 100% of our meals are currently reimbursed at the “free” reimbursement rate. The Board chose to enter into the CEP program because of the nature of our student body. All students should be able to eat, regardless of zip code. The fact that the State would pay the difference between the applicable federal paid reimbursement rate and the federal free reimbursement rate would benefit school districts such as the City, if we should ever fall below 100% of our student body at the free rate.

For the foregoing reasons, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners supports Sente Bill 769 and urges a FAVORABLE report.

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