



**Local power, collective voice  
for Maryland's children, youth and families**

February 21, 2023

**SUPPORT – SB559 - Education - Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program - Annual Appropriation**

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Local Management Boards, I am writing in support of SB559. Local Management Boards in each county and jurisdiction in the State of Maryland conduct needs assessments of their communities. We know that the pandemic left many vulnerable families struggling to afford the basic necessities every day. Often families have to choose to eat at a food bank so they can afford to pay their rent. Children and youth across the state of Maryland need access to free meals at school to help bridge the gap between family income and the high price of food related to inflation. If our children are to learn they must eat!

SB559 will expand an already proven best practice for students in Maryland. Maryland Meals for Achievement is for schools with 40% of students qualifying for free or reduced-price meals. This bill would add \$4.5 million to the budget, allowing 123 more eligible schools to participate in the program. This would allow for 100% of the high poverty schools in Maryland to be served, offering more opportunity to every child in Maryland to be successful. Local Management Boards create and support programming to address children's hunger needs, and this bill will further the efforts of LMBs.

We urge you to support SB559, the Maryland Meals for Achievement program, to improve children's health and wellbeing in schools.

Sincerely,

Pamela M. Brown, PhD  
Legislative Chair