

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 425

**Maryland Meals For Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program -
Alterations Maryland Meals For Achievement Flexibility Act of 2024**

Senate Education, Energy and the Environment

February 7, 2024

Good afternoon, Chairman Feldman, Sponsor Hettleman and members of the committee.

My name is Cherie Cotsonas. I am Vice President for the Maryland School Nutrition Association, and I am here to express our association's strong support for Senate Bill 425.

There is a very small change to this Bill which we support. By we, I mean the members of Maryland School Nutrition Association. We surveyed all School Food and Nutrition Service Directors in the state, and they are 100% behind the proposed change.

It may be a small change, but it makes a big difference in the management and delivery of the School Breakfast Program in high poverty schools known as the Maryland Meals For Achievement Program.

In the middle and high schools in this program, the Bill allows schools to use multiple delivery systems such as in the classroom, in the cafeteria, or from grab and go carts at the entrance to the school as soon as the students get off the bus.

This Bill change allows us to have the same flexibility in types of service offered to the elementary schools.

This bill has no cost associated with it.

We strongly urge your support for SB 425. It will definitely provide alternatives and support for the Maryland Meals For Achievement Program.

Thank you for allowing us to testify on behalf of SB 425. We urge your support.