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BILL: House Bill 257  
TITLE: Education – Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program – Administration (Maryland Meals for Achievement for Teens Act of 2017)  
DATE: February 9, 2017  
POSITION: SUPPORT  
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means  
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House Bill 257 authorizes participating secondary schools to serve breakfast in any part of the school, including from "Grab and Go" carts; and clarifies when breakfast in the classroom should be served.

PSSAM **supports** House Bill 257.

Maryland Meals for Achievement (MMFA) is a program that responds to low rates of school breakfast participation by making breakfast a part of the school day. MMFA removes obstacles that prevent students from participating in the traditional school breakfast, served in the cafeteria before the school day starts. MMFA began as a privately funded pilot program in fall 1998 in six Maryland elementary schools. Since that time MMFA has grown into a state-funded national model of a program that currently serves approximately 366 high-need Maryland schools.

Research has found that the classroom breakfast program has had a positive impact on student achievement, including academics and behavior. Moving breakfast to the classroom has not only been shown to increase participation in the program, but is also linked to fewer absences, higher proficiency on standardized math tests, increasing students' attention spans, decreasing tardiness and behavior problems, and improved school environment.

However, there are numerous reasons that students can miss cafeteria breakfast. Transportation issues, getting to school late or fear of being stigmatized are a few examples. House Bill 257 allows participating secondary schools to serve breakfast throughout the school. This legislation will permit schools to serve breakfast after students arrive in any part of the school, including from "Grab and Go" carts. This concept would help address the reasons that secondary students often do not take part in MMFA and would have a positive impact on learning and the school environment.

For the reasons stated above, PSSAM **SUPPORTS** House Bill 257 and requests a **favorable** committee report.