



2023  
**LEGISLATIVE  
ACTION  
CONFERENCE**

— RIGHT TIME. RIGHT NOW. —

**MARCH 5-7, 2023 | WASHINGTON, D.C. | JW MARRIOTT**



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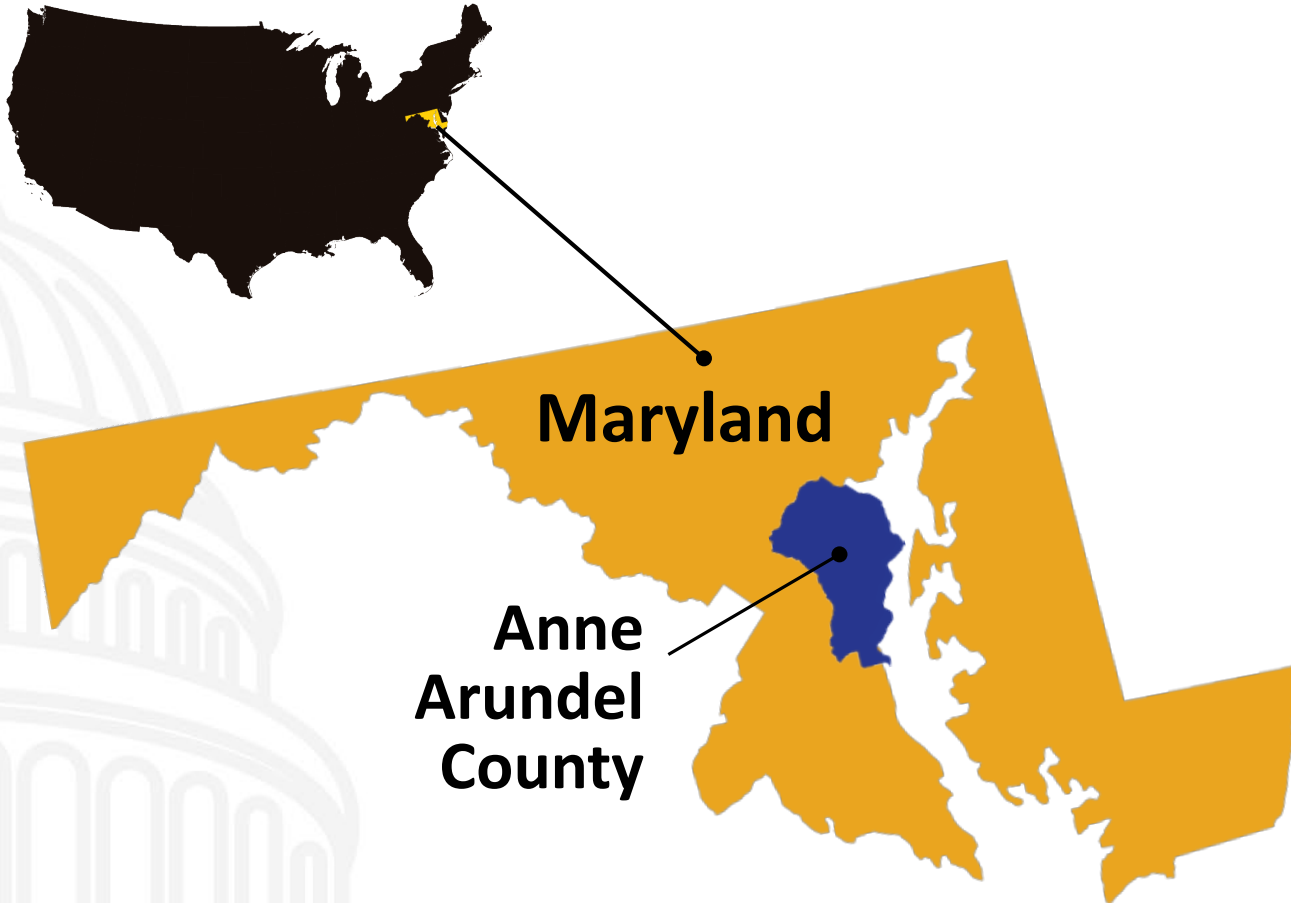


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Anne Arundel County Public Schools*



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# Who Are We? We Are Maryland!



**24** Local Education Agencies

**6,164,660** Population

**\$91,431** Median Household Income

**1,420** Public Schools

**881,471** Total Students



# Maryland Child Nutrition Programs

**Over 130.1 Million Meals Served  
SY 2021–22**



## Average Daily Participation

- Breakfast – 242,241
- Lunch – 437,253
- After School Meals – 25,107
- After School Snacks – 14,261

## Free & Reduced-Price Eligibility

- 47.27% Public LEA's  
(Local Education Agency)



# Where Do I Begin?

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## School District Interest

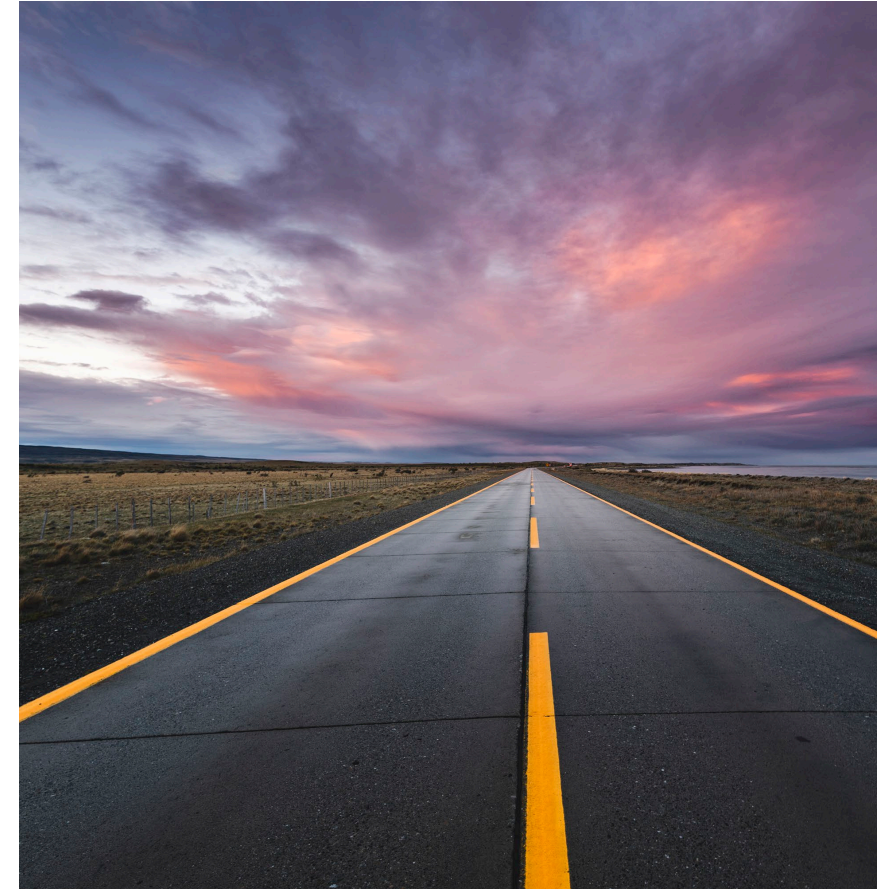
- What is your goal
- What other districts have similar goals

## State School Nutrition Associations

- What is a goal for the state
- What has passed or failed in the past
- What can we do differently to have all bills pass

## National Level Interest – School Nutrition Association

- What other states passed similar bills
- What are other success stories
- What tools and resources are available



# Continue Down the Road

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Read and review current legislation

Highlight success stories that have a positive impact on the health and well-being of students

Collaborate with State Legislators

- Who knows a legislator that may be interested in this topic
- Where does the legislator reside
- What Committee do they represent
- Who do they work with (other committee connections)

Invite Legislators to visit schools

- Knowing the why is a top priority to any successful bill
- Tell your story
- Be the expert and advisor to the state legislation when dealing with Child Nutrition

# Building Partnerships!

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## Collaborate with Internal and External Partners

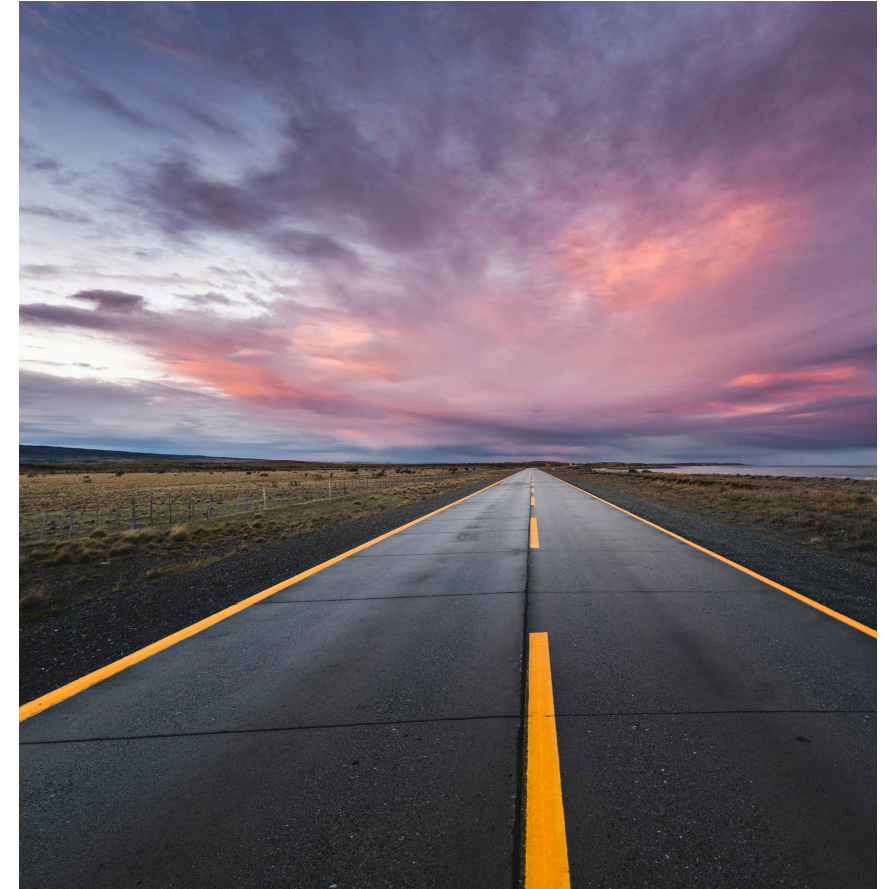
- Focus on similar goals and outcomes

## Build Community Support

- Collaborate with State Partners
  - MD Hunger Solutions
  - MD No Kid Hungry
  - Food Banks
- Reinforce Support at the National Level when possible
  - American Heart Association

## Local County Councils and Boards of Education

- Inform local partners of draft bill language and plans at the State Association level
- Ask local county councils and boards of education to share the importance of the proposed bill



# Collaboration & Relationships



- Tell your story
- Be transparent
- Invite Legislators to school
- Continue discussions to promote healthy school meals
- Showcase programs to internal and external partners
- Connect nutritious school meals to academic achievement and healthy students



# Know your WHY!

## *This proposed legislation will:*

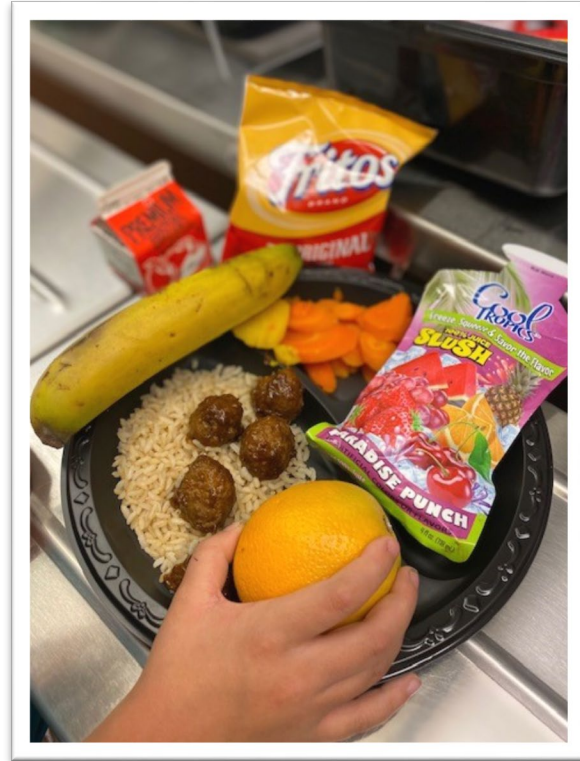
- Provides equitable access to healthy school meals—making sure no student goes hungry during the school day
- Supports Maryland families by removing financial burdens
- Reduces Administrative burden on schools
- Improves student attendance and academic performance



*Free School Meals are an investment in Maryland's Children and Families*



# Healthy School Meals Fueling our Future!





# Final Thoughts

Continue to tell your story  
Changes may take some time  
Collaborate with multiple internal  
and external partners  
Start slow and have realistic expectations  
Be persistent!