

MARYLAND CHILD NUTRITION POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) establishes the minimum national standards that schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and other federal meal programs must meet in order to obtain reimbursement. However, states can provide



additional requirements and standards for school nutrition programs. Below is a snapshot of the policies for Maryland. Also included are resources on the State legislature to assist SNA members interested in making an impact as the State crafts future policies. More information on Maryland can be found with the [State agency](#) or by viewing the latest data available from [USDA](#).

Current and Recent Legislation

- In 2014, a bill addressing CEP funding at the state level died after a committee hearing. However, the bill was reintroduced in 2015 and became law.
- 2015 also saw legislation introduced on Farm to School, banning sugar and chemicals in school meals, healthy options in vending machines, and offering water to all students. None of these bills advanced.

School Meal Policies

- Maryland mandates that schools must offer a lunch and a breakfast program.
- The state covers the cost of reduced price breakfast as well as other additional funds under the Maryland Meals for Achievement.
- Maryland does not provide additional funding for lunch.
- The state requires nutrition education as a part of health education.
- Schools must have a nut free table in the cafeteria.

Competitive Foods/Smart Snacks Fundraisers

- All food based fundraisers in Maryland must be Smart Snacks compliant.

Farm to School

- A farm to school program was required by law in 2008.

The Maryland General Assembly

- The General Assembly meets for a yearly 90 business day session.