

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 09-0115R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Clarke, Henry, Kraft, Middleton, Branch, Young, Cole, Welch,  
Spector, Reisinger, D'Adamo, Conaway, President Rawlings-Blake  
Introduced and adopted: March 2, 2009

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**A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING**

**A Good Start Helps Students Finish First –  
In Celebration of National School Breakfast Week, March 2 – 6, 2009**

FOR the purpose of celebrating National School Breakfast Week by commending the Baltimore City Public Schools CEO and school principals for their efforts to increase free breakfast participation among City students; and pledging to work citywide with City Council District schools to overcome the obstacles to full breakfast participation.

**WHEREAS**, Harvard medical researchers and commonsense experience indicate that, when breakfast is offered to every student at no charge in the classroom, the collective and daily “good start” leads to quantifiable increases in student performance, including higher standardized test scores, decreased tardiness, reduced absenteeism, fewer disciplinary referrals, and fewer visits to the school nurse; and

**WHEREAS**, In line with Councilwoman Agnes Welch’s leadership and the Baltimore City Council’s resolve to reduce childhood obesity in Baltimore City, experts confirm that children who start the day with a good breakfast are less likely to be or become obese; and

**WHEREAS**, Because of the high rate of poverty among Baltimore’s students, the federal government subsidizes a free breakfast for every single student of the Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS), regardless of income; and

**WHEREAS**, Thanks to Dr. Andres Alonso, CEO, and Mr. Anthony Geraci, “Chief Chef”, the BCPSS actively promotes free breakfast participation across the City and works to provide “fresh/local/delicious/nutritious” food for our students; and

**WHEREAS**, Thanks to these ground-breaking efforts, BCPS has increased student participation in the universal breakfast program; and

**WHEREAS**, Baltimore City nonetheless still lags behind in its student participation rate, ranking in the bottom third among large city school systems, at a low 39% compared, for example, to Newark, New Jersey’s 90% participation rate; and

**WHEREAS**, Newark has promoted and pioneered in-classroom breakfast as its major strategy for increasing participation, including grab-and-go carts, especially for middle and high school students, a strategy embraced now by the BCPS; and

**EXPLANATION:** Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.  
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

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1       **WHEREAS**, Although breakfast in the classroom sounds messy and distracting, that need not  
2 be the case when a school supports student time-limits and clean-up requirements in conjunction  
3 with the breakfast opportunity; and

4       **WHEREAS**, Participation counts enough to make adjustments to accommodate the free  
5 breakfast program for more and more of our students, beginning with the leadership of our  
6 teachers and school principals; and

7       **WHEREAS**, According to Maryland Hunger Solutions, a State-based anti-hunger group, if  
8 Baltimore City had reached a reasonable target of 70 children eating breakfast for every 100  
9 eating lunch in the 2007-08 school year, over 13,000 more children would have benefitted.

10       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the  
11 Baltimore City Council commends the school system and our school principals for their efforts  
12 to increase free breakfast participation among City students and pledges to work citywide and  
13 with our Council District schools to overcome the obstacles to full breakfast participation.

14       **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution of commendation for “gains  
15 made” be sent to Dr. Andres Alonso, Chef Tony Garaci, all Principals in BCPSs with “our  
16 thanks for their efforts to date”; the Baltimore Teachers Union (BTU); the City Union of  
17 Baltimore (CUB); and AFSCME #44 for “the work of their members in accomplishing full  
18 participation in the City’s Free Breakfast program.”

19       **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the  
20 State Superintendent of Education, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.