No Kid Hungry's CEP Calculator
Frequently Asked Questions

This resource is designed to be an accompanying guide for No Kid Hungry's CEP Calculator. It provides answers to common questions regarding use of the CEP Calculator.

Q: Where can I download No Kid Hungry's CEP Calculator?
A: Download the Calculator HERE. Simply click on the orange download button titled "NKH CEP Calculator…"

Q: What computer or software will I need?
A: The CEP Calculator is designed to work on a PC computer equipped with Microsoft Excel. We do not recommend using an Apple computer.

Q: Do I enter school meal debt as a negative number?
A: No. For example, if a school has $5,000 of unpaid school meal debt at the end of the school year, then type $5,000.

Q: Which month's claims should be used for entering data into this calculator?
A: Choose a month that Average Daily Participation (ADP) seemed to be the most "normal" for your district.

Q: If my district's general fund pays for the unpaid school meal charges at the end of the year, should I still include the unpaid school meal charges in the calculator?
A: Yes! Unpaid school meal charges are still a loss of revenue for the school nutrition department, even if the district general fund pays for them. You'll also want to show district administrators how much money CEP will save the general fund, as CEP schools will not have any unpaid school meal charges.

Q: How do I factor in increased costs due to increased meal volume into the financial analysis?
A: Currently, the calculator only looks at revenue. If you are expecting increases in participation due to CEP and/or breakfast after the bell (BAB) implementation, you will want to consider the costs of additional equipment and staff time you may need to accommodate those changes separately from this calculator.

Q: If I do not want Meals Count's grouping analysis to consider a particular school (a very low ISP, for example), should I choose REMOVE for that school in Step 4?
A: You can remove or add a school from the grouping by choosing the "REMOVE" or "INCLUDE" option in the dropdown list next to the school names. We recommend trying multiple scenarios to see what works for you financially.

Q: Does the CEP Calculator work for comparing Provision 2 (P2) and CEP?
A: Yes, just enter "$0.00" for the meal charges in the tab "2. ENTER DATA – DISTRICT." When you get to the results tabs, review the "Current Program Revenue" (which will be P2 operations) and "Scenario #3" which is the revenue scenario where the district adopts CEP and experiences no changes to breakfast or lunch participation. Because meals are free for all whether operating P2 or CEP, it's less likely that your district will see increases in ADP by switching to CEP, so we recommend comparing these two scenarios to see what the impact will be of switching from P2 to CEP. You can also manually adjust participation rates by school in the "Custom Analysis" tab.

Q: Why do the "grouping" column numbers come back after the calculation?
The numbers correspond to the different groups. All the schools with a '1' in the grouping column belong in a group together, all the schools with a '2' belong together in another group, and so on.

Q: Does the calculator work for a district with over 100 schools?
A: The CEP calculator works for districts that have up to 150 schools; however, the grouping calculation conducted by Meals Count will take a significant amount of time for a district of that size. We recommend that any districts with over 100 schools contact us so that we can run the grouping optimization on a computer with more computing power than available via the website version. Please submit a HELP TICKET to Meals Count, and/or send an email to No Kid Hungry's Center for Best Practices.

Q: Will the revenue comparison calculation work properly for Hawaii and Alaska as they have different meal reimbursement rates than the other 48 states?
A: No Kid Hungry's CEP Calculator is updated with the current reimbursement rates for Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. You only need to select your state/territory on the first yellow tab called, "2. ENTER DATA – DISTRICT."

If you still have questions or need support, please email No Kid Hungry's Center for Best Practices.