

CALCULATING FOOD COSTS

The cost of a school meal or snack program typically depends on attendance, geographic location, and total school population. The numbers below can be used as a guide but you may have different ways of calculating your food costs.

When planning meals, aim for a variety of foods from Canada's Food Guide, including at least one vegetable or fruit, one whole grain food and one protein food.

When planning snacks, aim for a variety of foods from Canada's Food Guide, including at least one vegetable or fruit, one whole grain food or one protein food.

Guidelines for Determining Cost per Student:

Approximately \$1.65 per meal/snack for students grades K-6
Approximately \$2.54 per meal/snack for students grades 7-12

Sample calculation for a breakfast program serving 25 students in grades K-6, 3 days per week for the whole school year:

$\$1.65 \times 25 \text{ students} \times 3 \text{ days} \times 37 \text{ weeks} = \$4,578.75$

Sample calculation for a lunch program serving 100 students in grades 7-12, 5 days per week for the whole school year:

$\$2.54 \times 100 \text{ students} \times 5 \text{ days} \times 37 \text{ weeks} = \$46,990.00$

Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba provides grants that cover a portion of your food cost. However, it is helpful to know what amount your program requires, so please let us know in your application. Additional sources of funding may be required to meet your needs. You may find funding from local businesses, churches, parents/family members, fundraisers, community organizations, and through grants. You can also offset costs with in-kind support like donations of food, supplies, equipment, and volunteer time.