



# Morning Lunch Count

A morning lunchroom count by each classroom can give the food services staff the information they need to prepare the right amount of food each day.



Example: Each morning, classroom teachers take a hot lunch count that is reported to the school secretary along with attendance. Students choose the regular hot lunch, the alternate lunch, or lunch brought from home. If parents will be eating hot lunch, their child notifies the classroom teacher so it can be added to the overall count. If parents bring in a cold lunch or special lunch, they are asked not to bring soda. A computerized system may be used to monitor student/family lunch accounts and allow for easy check-in of students.

## What schools are doing

### Bayview Elementary School - Waconia

Bayview Elementary Bayview consistently produces “just the right amount” of food to feed students and staff, and implemented procedures that limit food waste at point of service to less than 1.5%. Lunch orders are placed by 10:00 am through a computer based information system, the kitchen manager receives this information and prepares meals accordingly.

### Sibley Elementary School -- Northfield

Sibley teachers In Northfield take a lunch count each morning. This way the lunchroom staff knows exactly how much food to prepare, resulting in less waste. Extra food is only made as needed. So, no extra food is prepared for unexpected visitors. It is made to order. By anticipating the needs of each grade level, the

lunchroom staff is able to have the right quantity available, this makes for fresher food and fresher food tastes better, which leads to less waste.

## Resources

Lunch count can be quite time consuming each morning. For teachers who are responsible for taking care of their own lunch count. These links list teacher suggestions.

### *Attendance and Lunch Count*

<http://tips.atozteacherstuff.com/116/attendance-and-lunch-count/>

### *Lunch Count Ideas*

<http://www.proteacher.org/c/879lunchcount.html>