

Meals Per Labor Hour

Meals Per Labor Hour (MPLH) – the most common measure of productivity in school nutrition

Calculation:
$$\frac{\text{Number of meals/meal equivalents}}{\text{Number of paid labor hours}}$$

Staffing Guidelines for On-Site Production

Number of Meals/Meal Equivalents ¹	Meals Per Labor Hour (MPLH) for Low and High Productivity			
	Conventional System MPLH ²		Convenience System MPLH ³	
	Low	High	Low	High
Up to 100	8	10	10	12
101-150	9	11	11	13
151-200	10-11	12	12	14
201-250	12	14	14	15
251-300	13	15	15	16
301-400	14	16	16	18
401-500	14	17	18	19
501-600	15	17	18	19
601-700	16	18	19	20
701-800	17	19	20	22
801 and up	18	20	21	23

¹ **Meal equivalents (ME)** include breakfast, snacks and a la carte sales. Lunch 1:1, Breakfast 3:2, Snack 3:1, A la carte ME = sales revenue divided by the amount of free lunch reimbursement plus the cash-in-lieu of commodities.

² **Conventional system** is preparation of some foods from raw ingredients on premises (using some bakery breads and prepared pizza and washing dishes)

³ **Convenience system** is using maximum amount of processed foods (e.g. using all bakery breads, precooked chicken, ready to serve raw fruits and vegetables, pre-portioned condiments and washing only trays and using disposable dinnerware)

~ Source: Pannell-Martin 1999

Determining Meal Equivalency

Student breakfast meals served (3:2)	x	.67	=	Breakfast meal equivalents
Student lunch meals served (1:1)	x	1	=	Lunch meal equivalents
Student snack meals served (3:1)	x	.33	=	Snack meal equivalents
Non-program \$\$ (free reimbursement)	÷	\$3.7575	=	Non-program meal equivalents

Example:

Pineapple Middle School
(conventional system)

	# of staff	# of hours/day	Total # of hours
Management	2	8	
Production	3	6	
Part-time	2	4	
Cashier/Part-time	2	3	

	Meals & Sales	Equivalent	Meal equivalent
Student lunch	380	1:1	
Student breakfast	315	3:2	
Student a la carte Sales	\$125.00	\$3.7575	
Adult a la carte Sales	\$75.00	\$3.7575	

Meals per labor hour (MPLH)	=	$\frac{\text{\# of meal equivalents}}{\text{paid labor hours}}$
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MPLH	=	
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What is Pineapple Middle School’s MPLH?
 Are they hitting their MPLH benchmark?
 If not, what are some changes they can make?

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.