

Vision: Every Colorado student has access to an adequate & equitable public school education.

Student Count

How do you count students in an education system?

Are all students counted the same?

Should all students be counted as 1 “FTE” (full time equivalent)?

Should some students be counted more based on student and district characteristics?

Should students be counted less than 1 “FTE”?

States have a multitude of ways to count students for funding to be distributed to a school district. The most common terminology used in counting students are:

1. Average Daily Membership
2. Average Daily Attendance
3. Single Count Days
4. Multiple, single count days

These terms mean something different to each state, there are pros and cons to each. If the goal is to ensure that students have “adequate” and “equitable” funding then the least restrictive and least time consuming for a district and school should be considered. As important, is the auditing process - a district must be able to document or report out information to follow the state requirements.

In contrast, if the state requires multiple levels of documentation on students, classes, attendance, scheduling, etc. then the collection process and the auditing process can be very onerous.

[Colorado Average Daily Membership \(ADM\) Study: A Feasibility Study of Alternatives to the October 1 Student Count Method](#) – January 2011

[Average Daily Membership Study Powerpoint](#) – February 2011

[Statewide Data System Cost Addendum](#) – February 2011

[Average Daily Membership Study](#) – CSFP webpage with additional documents from the study.