



LUNCHBOX
by SchoolCashOnline

THE LUNCHBOX GUIDE

The \$10,000 Lunch Program

Most schools running lunch manually are losing money two ways. Here's the fix.

\$8,000–\$12,000

avg. annual fundraising
revenue with Lunchbox

5–8 hrs

wasted each week
running lunch manually

\$0

setup or
registration fees

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THE PROBLEM

Running lunch manually costs more than it seems

Most schools describe their lunch program as “parent-run” — which implies it costs the school nothing. That description is almost never accurate.

When you count the hours, the wages, and the overhead, the real cost of running a manual lunch program is often \$8,000–\$12,000 per year in staff time alone — and that's on top of the fundraising many schools already run manually, which Lunchbox can match or grow without the extra work.

Where that cost hides

Office administrators don't charge the lunch program for their time. They just absorb it — order corrections, parent phone calls, vendor coordination, payment chasing. Apply real hourly rates to those tasks and the numbers get hard to ignore.

Cost component	Low estimate	High estimate
Admin staff time	\$5,700	\$9,120
Error correction & rework	\$570	\$1,140
Volunteer coordination	\$1,140	\$2,280
Total annual cost	\$7,410	\$12,540

This is money the school is already spending, whether anyone has counted it or not. The bigger question is what Lunchbox could be earning your school instead.

THE OPPORTUNITY

What Lunchbox actually changes

Lunchbox does two things at once. It takes the manual admin work off your plate, and it turns everyday lunch orders into a fundraising stream for your school.

\$8,000–\$12,000

average annual fundraising revenue for schools using Lunchbox

That revenue comes from a simple formula, repeated every week, all school year:

**Number of families
ordering**

×

**How often
they order**

×

**Proceeds
per order**

No bake sales. No raffles. Just proceeds from something families are already doing, week after week.

Larger schools — with more families and more frequent ordering — have raised up to \$40,000 in a single year.

*Based on Lunchbox schools with larger enrollment and higher order frequency. Individual results vary by school size and participation.

THE FULL PICTURE

Manual program vs. Lunchbox

Put the cost savings and the new revenue side by side, and the difference stops being incremental.

	Manual program	With Lunchbox
Admin hours/week	5–8 hrs	Under 30 min
Annual staff cost	\$7,410–\$12,540	\$0
Annual fundraising revenue	Comparable, but time-intensive	\$8,000–\$12,000
Registration / setup fee	Varies	\$0
Fundraising revenue holds steady either way — the real swing is time and cost. Most schools reclaim \$7,410–\$12,540 a year by moving that admin work to Lunchbox.		

WHO FEELS THE DIFFERENCE

Who feels the difference

The upside isn't abstract — it shows up differently for the three people closest to the program.

OFFICE ADMIN	PARENT COUNCILS	PRINCIPALS
Reclaims 5+ hours a week that used to go to order corrections, payment chasing, and vendor calls.	Hits fundraising goals every week without organizing another bake sale or raffle.	Gets a reliable budget line and full visibility into how the program is performing.
Impact: time and focus back.	Impact: steady revenue, less volunteer burnout, and no impact when volunteers change year over year.	Impact: predictable revenue, real oversight.

Why it holds up over time

Manual systems don't just cost time and revenue — they create fragility. When the one person who knows how the spreadsheet works goes on leave, the program stalls. Lunchbox removes that dependency, so the results hold up year over year, not just while the right volunteer is in place.

“What feels manageable day-to-day becomes ongoing administrative drag across the year — and money the school never sees.”

THE SOLUTION

What changes when you switch to Lunchbox

Schools that move from manual coordination to Lunchbox consistently report the same improvements.

Area	Manual system	With Lunchbox
Order management	Spreadsheets, email, manual corrections	Centralized, automated, self-service
Payment tracking	Cash, cheques, informal records	Secure, digital, full visibility
Parent communication	Phone calls, individual emails	Built-in messaging, fewer interruptions
Vendor coordination	Manual back-and-forth	Coordinated directly with vendors by Lunchbox — no school involvement needed
Admin time per week	5–8 hours	Under 30 minutes
Fundraising revenue	Comparable, but time-intensive	\$8,000–\$12,000 a year
Principal visibility	Limited, informal, no central oversight	Weekly reports by classroom and delivery day

Easy to get started

- Structured onboarding — we configure everything to match your school's setup
- Vendor integration included — no need to source or switch suppliers
- Fits existing school workflows — minimal disruption, smooth transition
- Ongoing support beyond setup — a dedicated team, not just a help article
- No registration or set-up fees — zero cost to the school

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

See what your school could earn

A 30-minute walkthrough is all it takes to map your school's real revenue potential — and show you exactly where the manual costs are hiding. No commitment, no sales pressure.

\$8,000–\$12,000avg. annual fundraising
revenue**30 min**that's all the
walkthrough takes**\$0**no fees to set up
or register**Book your free 30-minute walkthrough**lunchbox.kevgroup.com/10K-lunch-program

Lunchbox is built on SchoolCash Online's trusted infrastructure — the platform Canadian schools have relied on for over a decade.

Want more detail first? Read the full breakdown on our blog →