MEALS PROGAM SOFTWARE EVALUATION/RECOMMENDATION

KIPP Memphis Collegiate Schools

INTRODUCTION

As organizations increasingly adopt digitization of manual processes to improve efficiency, co-ordination, productivity and management, efficient data analysis is one task that continues to grow in importance.

However, the data is provided, it is critical to capture all relevant information for further processing and utilization by all participants, i.e. the state, administrators and staff, and any vendor application that uses the information.

OBSERVATION

After observing Ms. Gretchen Leavy's analysis of student data for the meals program, it is apparent that the manual process Ms. Leavy uses has at least the following three disadvantages:

- *Labor-Intensive:*
  The use of Excel spreadsheets to identify and verify student eligibility and reauthorization for the NSLP, the sheer volume of data and the multiple spreadsheets utilized to extract, compile, sort and filter the data is extremely labor-intensive and requires uninterrupted focus. Which is not always available during Ms. Leavy's normal business hours. Thereby requiring substantial afterhours work.

- *Human or High Error Potential:*
  The reasons for human or high error potential could vary – from visual fatigue of manual data processing, misreading of numbers, incorrect spreadsheet formula calculations, and so on. Whatever the reason, the net impact could be one that can have a negative effect on student verification and delays or incorrect revenue reimbursements.

- *Loss of Focus from Other Core Tasks:*
  While student verification for the FRMP is a core task of Ms. Leavy, the manual process does divert her attetion from completing other important activities. This itself can have a detrimental effect on the organization in the long run, as targeted efforts to achieve strategic objectives might get diluted.

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this evaluation is to identify a software application that meet at least the following criteria:

- The application must provide a near seamless integration with PowerSchool SIS.
- The application must effectively automate the current manual process of data extraction, compilation, verification and the identification of students who qualify for the feedings program according to state guidelines.
- The application must have a "user friendly" interface.
- The application must be capable of virtualization for cloud computing.

APPLICATIONS EVALUATED

- Primeroedge
- Meals Plus
- MySchoolAccount

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION

Based on the criteria listed, the applications ranked as follows:

1st – Meals Plus
2nd - Primeroedge
3rd – MySchoolAccount

It is concluded, therefore, that Meals Plus is the best fit for KMCS and that Ms. Leavy should proceed with contracting with the vendor to implement their solution.