

? Which Child Count Should I Use?

Understanding Different Versions of the Base Payment Adjustment Calculator

This resource is a companion to the Instructions for the Base Payment Adjustment (BPA) Calculators, intended to help users determine which child count to use for each version of the Calculator (interim, preliminary, or final). Users will select a version and child count depending on when they are making base payment adjustments.

Version of the Base Payment Adjustment Calculator File

	Interim	Preliminary	Final
Purpose	To determine allocations for the upcoming fiscal year when there is an LEA newly serving children with disabilities (CWD).	To generate initial allocations for the upcoming fiscal year. Estimates may need to be adjusted after final child count (see next column).	To generate final allocations for the current fiscal year, which may require adjusting the initial allocations generated by the preliminary version.
When Are BPAs Calculated	The year after an LEA that has never received a base payment reports a CWD, before preliminary calculations.	Typically in the spring or early summer, before the start of an LEA's fiscal year (e.g., July 1).	Typically in January or February of the current fiscal year, after the LEA's child count is finalized.
Which Child Count to Use	Prior year child count (i.e., from the year in which the LEA first reported a CWD).	Most recent final child count for existing LEAs, adjusted for Affected LEAs based on projections (see "How to project child counts for Affected LEAs").	Final child count for current fiscal year.

➤ How to project child counts for Affected LEAs for a preliminary version of the BPA Calculator

A projected child count is an estimate of what the LEA's official and final annual child count will be in the fiscal year for which adjustments are being made. The following steps describe one method for estimating that child count.

1. Begin with the most recent final child count for all Transferring LEAs and Assuming LEAs.
2. For Transferring LEAs, subtract from the most recent final child count the number of CWD expected to transfer to:
 - New LEAs,
 - Significantly expanding charter school LEAs, and
 - Other LEAs due to changes in geographic boundaries or changes in administrative responsibility (including LEAs that closed).
3. For Assuming LEAs, add to the most recent final child count the number of CWD expected to be assumed by the LEAs because the LEAs are:
 - New LEAs,
 - Significantly expanding charter school LEAs, or
 - LEAs with changes in geographic boundaries or changes in administrative responsibility (including LEAs that closed).

- For closing LEAs, the projected child count should be 0.
- For LEAs that are combining, the former LEAs should have a child count of 0, and the child count of the new (combined) LEA should be the sum of the prior year child counts of the former LEAs.
- For LEAs affected by a common circumstance, the total number of transferring children (Step 2) across those LEAs should match the total number of children assumed (Step 3) across those LEAs.