

Five things to know about the new Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) benefit for families

What is P-EBT?

1 P-EBT is a new federal nutrition program that provides a small grocery benefit for families to purchase food. P-EBT was first available in 2020 for families with school-aged children, and was extended in 2021 to include some families with young children as well.

How much is the P-EBT benefit?

2 Each eligible child receives \$6.82 for each school day in which in-person learning was impacted due to the pandemic during the 2020-2021 school year. The total benefit will vary with a maximum benefit of **about \$34 per child, per week**. P-EBT benefits will also be available for the summer of 2021 and will average **\$375 per child** for the full summer break.

Who qualifies for P-EBT?

3 P-EBT is for **students who qualify for free or reduced-priced school meals**, including all students attending schools that offer meals at no cost with the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). A student must also be learning in a **virtual or hybrid model** due to pandemic-related school closures or schedule changes. In the 2020-2021 school year, most **children under the age of six** in families participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) are also eligible for P-EBT benefits if nearby schools are virtual or hybrid.

How do families receive P-EBT benefits?

4 Most eligible children receive P-EBT benefits **automatically**. Children in families with SNAP usually receive P-EBT benefits on their existing EBT card. In most states, students enrolled in the free and reduced-price school meal program (but not receiving SNAP) automatically receive a P-EBT card in the mail, based on the address on file with their school. However, please note that each state has a different plan for operating P-EBT and for distributing benefits.

Do families need to apply for P-EBT benefits?

5 While P-EBT benefits are automatically provided to most eligible children, it is important for families with school-aged children to **complete a school meal benefit application** for this school year (especially Kindergarten and transfer students) and to **make sure the school has the correct mailing address on file**.

Remember Students and children eligible for P-EBT can also still pick up grab-n-go summer meals. Text “**FOOD**” or “**COMIDA**” to **877-877** to find a grab-n-go location near you.

