

1. **What is Pandemic EBT (P-EBT)?**

Federal law allows States to implement a temporary program called Pandemic- Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT), which provides eligible children with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps) benefits. Preschool (Pre-K) through 12th grade students within eligible school buildings who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or School Breakfast Program (SBP) may be eligible for P-EBT benefits. Additionally, children on SNAP, under the age of 6 who are not in school, are eligible for P-EBT benefits based on a monthly reduction of lunch meals provided to children at child care centers across the state.

The program is administered by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Department is partnering with the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) to ensure eligible children receive this important benefit.

2. **What is Summer P-EBT?**

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Act) authorized P-EBT to extend through the summer of 2022 for school children eligible for free or reduced-price meals through NLSLP, and for children on SNAP in June or July under the age of 6 not in school.

The Act deems all NSLP-participating schools to be closed during a covered summer period. This means P-EBT benefits will be issued for the summer period without reference to a student's virtual or remote learning schedule, or operating status of a childcare center.

3. **How much will an eligible child receive and when will the benefit be issued?**

Each child will receive **\$7.10** per day (the combined daily federal reimbursement rate for breakfast, lunch, and a snack for school year 2020-2021) for 55 days, totaling \$390.50.

The summer benefit will be issued in two payments. The first payment will be issued by the end of June in the amount of \$191.70 (27 days of benefits). The second payment will be issued by the end of July in the amount of \$198.80 (28 days of benefits).

4. **How are P-EBT benefits issued?**

ODJFS obtains a list from the schools or school districts of all children eligible for free and reduced-price meals. Based on this data, P-EBT benefits are provided on an electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card.

If the child is a current SNAP recipient:

- The P-EBT benefits may be added to the SNAP account on which the child is currently active on.

- If the child was unable to be matched to his or her active SNAP account, you will be sent a P-EBT card in the child's name.

If the child is not a current SNAP recipient:

- If you do not have a P-EBT card that was issued in or after February 2021, you will receive a preloaded P-EBT card in the mail in early to mid-July.
- The card will be in the child's name, not the parent or guardian's name.
- Instructions on how to activate the card will be included (also see instructions below).
- **You must keep this new card as it will be used for any future P-EBT benefits your child is eligible for.**

If the child has previously been on SNAP, but is not currently, he or she will receive a P-EBT card. Each child will receive a P-EBT card; benefits of siblings will not be grouped onto one card.

The benefits are used just like SNAP benefits. Go to <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/eligible-food-items> for a list of eligible food items that can be bought with SNAP benefits.

5. Can a family apply for P-EBT benefits?

P-EBT does not have an application. However, families may apply for free or reduced-price meals for their child through their school/school district who will be collecting applications throughout the summer until July 31, 2022. Eligibility will be determined by September 9, 2022.

Benefits for newly eligible children (who applied over the summer) will be issued the summer P-EBT benefit by the end of September 2022. They will receive \$7.102 per day for 55 days totaling \$390.50.

6. How long will a family have access to the P-EBT benefits?

The P-EBT benefits will be available for 12 months. If after 12 months the P-EBT benefits have not been spent, they will be removed (expunged) from the account. Current SNAP households will still have access to their remaining SNAP benefits.

7. Who should a family contact if they have questions regarding P-EBT?

For general program questions, questions about your child's benefits, please call the P-EBT customer service line at 1-866-244-0071 Option 1.