

***Summer P-EBT (while schools are closed for Summer)*****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. 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.

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Act) authorized P-EBT to extend through the summer of 2021 for school children eligible for free or reduced-price meals through NSLP, and for children on SNAP under the age of 6 not in school. Going forward in this Q&A the P-EBT program for the summer months, while schools are closed, will be referenced as "Summer P-EBT".

**2. *Is a child on SNAP, not in school, and under 6 eligible for Summer P-EBT?***

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 the county of residence for a child on SNAP under the age of 6 not in school.

**3. *How much will an eligible child receive for Summer P-EBT and when will the benefit be issued?***

Each eligible child will receive **\$6.82** per day (the combined daily federal reimbursement rate for breakfast, lunch, and a snack for school year 2020-2021) for 55 days, totaling \$375.10.

The summer P-EBT benefit will be issued in two payments to cover the federal identified 55 days of the summer break. The first payment will be issued by the end of June in the amount of \$190.96 (28 days of benefits). The second payment will be issued by the end of July in the amount of \$184.14 (27 days of benefits).

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

Summer P-EBT benefits follow the same issuance process as P-EBT benefits outlined below:

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 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, you will receive a preloaded P-EBT card in the mail around 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 than be bought with SNAP benefits.

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

No. 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, 2021. Eligibility will be determined by September 9, 2021.

Children newly eligible for free or reduced-price meals (who applied over the summer) will also receive Summer P-EBT. Summer P-EBT benefits for children newly determined eligible for free or reduced-price meals will be issued by the end of September 2021. They will receive \$6.82 per day for 55 days totaling \$375.10.

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

The Summer P-EBT benefits follow the same process as P-EBT benefits as outlined below: 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/Summer 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.