

# Fast Facts on Pandemic EBT for 2023

## Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) provides grocery benefits to families with children

### In 2023, P-EBT is available for:

- School-aged children who miss school meals due to COVID
- Children under six who receive SNAP when there is less childcare available due to COVID
- Children who previously received free or reduced price school meals, but now are homeschooled or attend virtual school because of COVID. For children in this situation, benefits are not tied to missing school because of being sick.
- School-aged children over summer break when school is closed\*\*



\*\*Summer benefits are only available to school-aged children. Children under 6 and those who are homeschooled or attend a virtual school that does not provide school meals are not eligible.

### States must submit a plan to USDA Food and Nutrition Service to be approved to provide Pandemic EBT:

- States can submit a school year plan to provide benefits to school-aged children, children 0-6 or for both groups of children together.
- For summer 2023, states do not need to have an approved school year plan to be able to submit, be approved, and operate Summer P-EBT.
- All states need to distribute P-EBT benefits, no matter school year or summer, by September 30, 2023. Families do not need to use their benefits by that date.
- Find out if your state has been approved to provide P-EBT benefits this year by visiting: [www.fns.usda.gov/snap/state-guidance-coronavirus-pandemic-ebt-pebt](http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/state-guidance-coronavirus-pandemic-ebt-pebt)

### Children are eligible for School Year and Summer\*\* P-EBT if they meet any of the following criteria:

- They qualify for free or reduced-price school meals and/or receive SNAP
- Many students will receive benefits automatically if:
  - They are approved for free or reduced-price school meals
  - Receive SNAP
  - Attend a school with no-cost meals for all because of the Community Eligibility Provision
- Children who previously received free or reduced school meals, but now are homeschooled or attend virtual school because of COVID will need to apply to receive P-EBT in most states. Many states are providing online applications for this purpose or asking families to submit a school meal application to the school/district where their children would attend if they were not homeschooled or at a virtual school.



### Encourage families to submit a school meal application if the above situations do not apply to them.

## School Year P-EBT Benefits = \$8.18 per school day missed

- Benefits in Alaska are \$12.83 and in Hawaii are \$9.45
- Benefit amounts will vary based on individual student experiences

## Summer P-EBT Benefits = \$120 per child (\$40 per month for three months)

- Benefits in Alaska are \$188 and in Hawaii are \$139

## P-EBT benefits are provided on an EBT card:

- If families have received P-EBT before, the benefits are loaded onto the same card they previously received. If this card is lost, it can be replaced typically through a state's EBT replacement line or P-EBT call center.
- If families receive SNAP, benefits are loaded onto their SNAP card.
- If families are new to P-EBT, an EBT card will be mailed to them.

## Reminder:

- Immigration status is not considered for P-EBT eligibility and receiving P-EBT will not impact an individual's or family members' immigration status.
- Families can participate in P-EBT, summer meals, SNAP, WIC, and food from a food pantry. Together these programs can support families with the food they need.

## Share about P-EBT in your community!

Find outreach materials in No Kid Hungry's [P-EBT Outreach Toolkit](#)

For additional food resources, visit [nokidhungry.org/help](https://nokidhungry.org/help) or [nokidhungry.org/ayuda](https://nokidhungry.org/ayuda).

# Changes to Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) for 2023

- There are a few things that are different about Pandemic EBT this year because of the end of the federal public health emergency happening May 11, 2023, new USDA guidance, and the recent passage of the [Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023](#).
- All P-EBT benefits (both school-year and summer) must be issued by states by September 30, 2023. Families do not need to use their P-EBT benefits by that date.
- USDA issued new guidance to allow states to issue P-EBT benefits for some children who are homeschooled or attend a virtual school.
  - To qualify for P-EBT, children in this situation need to meet both of the following criteria:
    - i. (1) currently homeschooled or attending a virtual school  
AND
    - ii. (2) previously attending a school where they received free or reduced price school meals but left that school because of COVID.
  - Most states are requiring families with qualifying homeschooled or virtual students to apply to receive P-EBT benefits. Most states are offering an online application for this purpose.
  - Benefits for qualifying homeschooled or virtual students are not tied to missing school because of being sick. These children are not eligible for Summer P-EBT benefits because of the language included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023.
- Changes to Summer P-EBT include:
  - Summer P-EBT benefits are now \$40 per month per child for three months, or \$120 for the full summer.
  - States can provide Summer P-EBT benefits even if they did not provide school year benefits.
  - Summer benefits are only available to school-aged children. The end of the federal public health emergency on May 11, 2023 means children under 6 and children who are homeschooled or attend a virtual school that does not provide school meals are not eligible for summer benefits.