

FAQ for P-EBT in Summer 2021

The Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program provides nutritional resources to families who have lost access to free or reduced-price meals due to school or child care closures.

In the American Rescue Plan, passed in March 2021, Congress extended P-EBT to any “covered summer period” that followed a school year when a public health emergency due to COVID-19 had been declared. The program will provide money on a new or existing EBT card to help fill the summer meals gap left by the inability to access meals during the summer.

Below are answers to frequently asked questions (FAQ) regarding P-EBT during summer 2021. For more information, see [USDA's Guidance](#) and [Q&A](#) on P-EBT for summer 2021.

1) Who is eligible for summer 2021 P-EBT?

■ School-age Students

- If a student received P-EBT benefits during the last month of school year (SY) 2020–2021 or was eligible for free or reduced-price school meals under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) but did not receive benefits during the last month of SY 2020–2021 because they attended school in person, they will receive P-EBT benefits during summer 2021.
- Newly eligible students for free or reduced-price meals must be given the opportunity to apply for school meals and, if deemed eligible before the end of the covered summer period, should receive the full benefit for the summer.

■ Children Under 6 years old

- Children under 6 who are enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) during the last month of the school year, or at any point over the covered summer period, are eligible for the full summer 2021 P-EBT benefit.

2) Are P-EBT benefits for summer 2021 tied to the learning model at my child's school or child care facility?

- **No.** The Act deems all NSLP-participating schools and covered child care facilities are **closed** during the summer period, so states do not need to issue benefits in relation to a student's school-operating status.

3) Will a child on SNAP born during the covered summer period be eligible to receive P-EBT benefits for summer 2021?

- **Yes.** If a SNAP-enrolled child is born before the end of the covered summer period they are eligible for the full summer P-EBT benefit.

4) If a child's SNAP enrollment begins or ends during summer 2021, will they receive benefits?

- **Yes.** If a child's SNAP enrollment is set to begin or expire during the summer of 2021, they are eligible to receive the entire P-EBT benefit for that summer.

5) If a student graduated after SY 2020–2021, will they receive P-EBT benefits for summer 2021?

- **Yes.** Students who graduated at the end of SY 2020–2021 will receive P-EBT benefits for summer 2021.

6) If a student's school is electing to implement the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for SY 2021–2022, will students automatically receive P-EBT benefits for summer 2021?

- Students in school districts that will adopt CEP beginning next school year (SY 2021–2022) are **not** automatically

eligible for P-EBT benefits for summer 2021. If a student qualified for and received free or reduced-price meals during SY 2020–2021, then they will receive this benefit. If a student becomes eligible during the covered summer period, they should submit a school meals application to become eligible for the benefit. Students whose schools adopted CEP in SY 2020–2021 are automatically eligible.

7) What is the P-EBT benefit amount that children will receive in summer 2021?

- This depends on each state. Some states will take the standard amount set by USDA, and some may choose to distribute benefits based on their own data.
 - States can choose to opt in to the standard P-EBT benefit based on USDA’s calculated average of scheduled summer periods. The standard benefit level is \$375 for summer 2021, based on 55 summer weekdays at \$6.82 per day.
 - States may decide to set school district-specific benefits that are based on each district’s actual summer period, or they may calculate a state average based on a sample of school districts within the state. Neither can exceed 90 days.

8) My state has not been approved to issue P-EBT benefits for SY 2020–2021; can my state still issue P-EBT benefits for summer 2021?

- A state must have an approved P-EBT plan for SY 2020–2021 to issue benefits. That plan must also specify who is eligible to receive benefits. For example, if a state’s P-EBT plan approves only school-age children to receive P-EBT benefits, then no one else can be issued said benefits.

9) Does P-EBT for summer 2021 replace summer meal sites or meals provided by child care providers?

- **No.** P-EBT is a supplement to summer meal sites; it does not replace them. Families can find a meal site in their community through [USDA’s Meals 4 Kids Site Finder](#). Children under 6 may receive meals at their child care facility, including meals provided through the Child and Adult Care Food Program and summer P-EBT.

10) Does this count against an individual under public charge?

- **No, it does not.** Using P-EBT benefits does not impact an individual’s immigration status. The public charge rule does not apply to P-EBT benefits.