

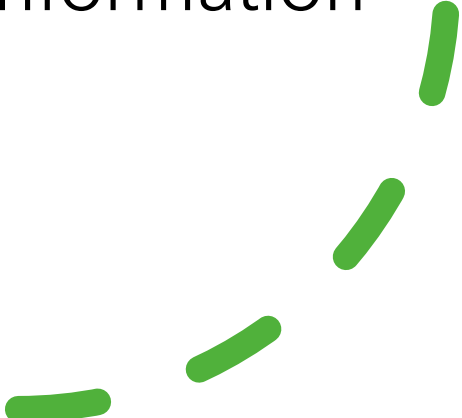
# Pandemic EBT

Extra SNAP food benefits for  
children and students

A partnership between DHHS and  
USDA with support from DOE



## What is P-EBT?

- Pandemic Electronic Benefit (P-EBT)
  - Part of an overall USDA response to the COVID-19 pandemic
  - Temporary emergency nutrition benefits on EBT cards that can be used to purchase food
  - DHHS program that sources information securely from DOE
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# Who is eligible?

- Children who would have received free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program if their schools were not closed or operating with reduced hours or attendance for at least 5 consecutive days are eligible
  - Free/Reduced-Price eligible
  - All students in CEP/Special Provision 2 schools
  - Students on Direct Certification List
    - DHHS provides this confidential list of students who receive benefits like SNAP and TANF

# School Aged Children

- SY2021 - Benefits available if majority of students in the school were learning hybrid/remotely per month
- Children eligible for the USDA National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program will receive benefits retroactively from September 2020 through June 2021 on a month-by-month basis if their school was utilizing a predominately hybrid or fully remote learning model
- Surveys sent to Superintendents by DOE captured this data
  - [Learning Models Reported by Districts](#) (June 2021)

# What about younger children?

- Children 0-5 will receive P-EBT benefits retroactively on a month-by-month basis from October 2020 through June 2021 if:
  - In a SNAP eligible household **and**
  - One school in their county was not utilizing a predominately in-person learning model.

# How much is the benefit?

- The benefit for predominantly (majority of students) fully remote learning models is about \$119 per child per month.
- The benefit for predominantly (majority of students) hybrid learning is about \$59 per child per month.
- If the majority of students were in-person learning for all months in the school, the benefit is \$0.
- \$6.82 daily value

# When were the benefits provided?

- Began June 16 for the months of September through December
- July 15 - benefits for the months of January through March 2021
- Another issuance will take place after data is ready

# How are benefits provided?

- Current and recent SNAP recipients will receive P-EBT on their EBT card
- P-EBT benefits for other children will be sent to each child on a new P-EBT card
- Addresses used were from enrollment data uploaded by schools to DOE
- If no household address was included, Principals or the McKinney-Vento liaison receive cards for confidential distribution
- Benefits are automatically issued to those who qualify



# Secure Data Sharing

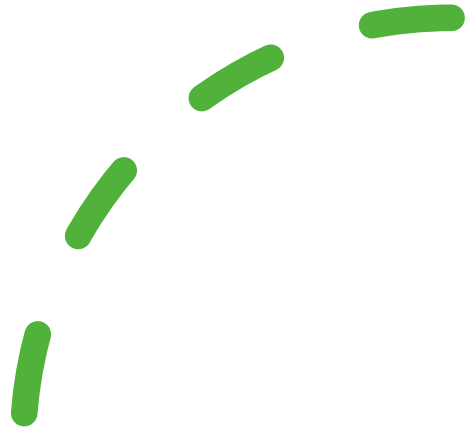
- MDOE and DHHS have a data sharing agreement that allows for this information to only be used for the P-EBT processing. MDOE provided the following information to DHHS for students who are considered economically disadvantaged or in CEP schools.
- Student First Name
- Student Last Name
- Student Date of Birth
- Student Mailing Address - if provided by the school
- No economic data was sent for any student.
- DOE gets the information from the schools via Synergy. The data sharing is allowed since both school lunch and P-EBT/SNAP are both USDA programs.

# What is next?

- Summer P-EBT benefits - \$375 per eligible child
- Not tied to a learning model
- Will be issued in the fall
- Who will receive benefits?
  - SY 2021 free/reduced eligible (including SNAP) and all CEP/Special Provision school students
  - Free/reduced price eligible applications **submitted** during summer months (June-August 31, 2021)
    - SY 2022 free/reduced price applications must be used for July and August 2021
- We are finalizing the details of how this data will be captured

# What resources are available?

- DHHS has created a website that includes information about the program as well as a question-and-answer section. You can access that website here:  
<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofc/programs-services/food-supplement>
- Resources from community partners, including Full Plates Full Potential are also available
  - [feedkids.me](https://www.feedkids.me)
  - The toolkit can be found online at <https://www.fullplates.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/MAINE-PEBT-Toolkit.pdf>



# Frequently Asked Questions

From Households

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Why do children get different benefit amounts?**

- Benefits for school-age children that received assistance through the USDA National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program are based on their schools learning model so children in the same households can be issued different P-EBT benefit amounts. For school specific information check the [spreadsheet](#). Information on additional months will be added as it becomes available.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **My child learned remotely, but his/her school learning was mostly or all in-person. Does my child get a P-EBT benefit?**

- No. Benefits are issued based on the school's learning model, not an individual child's learning model. For school specific information check the [spreadsheet](#). Information on additional months will be added as it becomes available.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **My child learned in-person all or most of the year. Why did I get a P-EBT benefit?**

- Benefits are issued based on the schools learning model not the individual child's learning model. You are therefore eligible to use the P-EBT benefits. For school specific information check the [spreadsheet](#). Information on additional months will be added as it becomes available.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **My child received free lunch at school and their school was either fully remote or hybrid. Why did my child not get a benefit?**

- Many schools provided meals to all children funded by the summer feeding program. School-aged children need to have been eligible under the USDA National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program to be eligible for P-EBT. You can still apply for free/reduced price meals under the USDA National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program through your school.



# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Will P-EBT benefits be one payment for all the children or separate amounts for each child?**

- Eligibility for P-EBT is based on individual children and children may receive different benefits based on school learning models. Children in the same household may have different benefits based on different school learning models.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **How do I set up my pin for my P-EBT card?**

- Call the number on the back of the P-EBT card. You will need to enter the child's date of birth and the last four digits of their Social Security Number (SS#). If the child does not have a SS# or it was not provided to us you will need to enter 9999.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Why did I receive multiple cards?**

- P-EBT cards are issued for each eligible child not on SNAP since January 2021. If not on SNAP since January 2021 or earlier you will receive a P-EBT card for each eligible child.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **I didn't ask for P-EBT and I do not want it. What do I do with the P-EBT card?**

- Please destroy the card. P-EBT cards are for the individual child. It is a prosecutable offense to give the card and/or benefits away.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Other people received P-EBT on their EBT card. Why don't I have my card(s) or benefits yet?**

- P-EBT cards can take 14 days or longer to be delivered due to postal delays. If you have not received a card you can contact DHHS at [Farmington.DHHS@Maine.gov](mailto:Farmington.DHHS@Maine.gov)

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Will P-EBT benefits be issued to the P-EBT card I received last year?**

- No. New P-EBT cards will be issued to each eligible child.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Do home-schooled children qualify for P-EBT?**

- No. To qualify, school aged children must be enrolled in a school that offers meals through the USDA National School Lunch Program and be eligible for free/reduced price meals under the USDA National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **When will my child get P-EBT?**

- Benefits for September through December 2020 were issued June 16th. Benefits for January through March 2021 were issued July 15<sup>th</sup>. Further issuance dates and other SNAP updates will be posted on <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/programs-services/food-supplement> when available. Please remember it may take 14 days or longer to receive a EBT or P-EBT card due to postal delays.



# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Where can I apply for P-EBT?**

- Neither DHHS OFI nor DOE can take P-EBT applications or requests. Eligibility for P-EBT and the schools learning model will be sent from the school to the DOE. The DOE will submit this information to OFI for issuance. Schools can accept applications for the USDA National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program through the end of August.

# Questions?

- The FAQ included common questions from households. What questions do you have?