

Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer Issuance of 2020-2021 School Year Benefits

FAQs

1. What is the Pandemic EBT program?

The Pandemic EBT program, or P-EBT, provides food benefits to eligible students to replace the cost of meals students would have received if not for the lack of in-person instruction or due to school closures during the 2020-2021 school year.

These benefits are issued by the Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Assistance in partnership with the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, Child Nutrition Programs.

2. Who was eligible for P-EBT for the 2020-2021 school year?

Children who normally had access to the National School Lunch Program, or NSLP, and School Breakfast Program, or SBP, and are registered/enrolled at a school in Alaska that:

- Was closed or had reduced in-person operations as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency during the 2020-2021 school year and
- The child is eligible for free or reduced-priced school meals.

You don't have to apply for this program. We worked directly with school districts to obtain lists of children who had been determined to be eligible by the school district.

3. How is this different from last school year?

The 2019-20 school year P-EBT program provided food benefits to eligible school-aged children for the months of March, April, and May 2020. Households opted-in for these benefits and if determined eligible, they received a standard benefit amount issued by lump sum on a Quest Card.

4. My child received lunches at school. Can I still qualify for P-EBT?

Maybe. P-EBT benefits are additional food benefits during remote learning. Children may have received grab-and-go meals at school or community sites, or emergency food at COVID-19 emergency feeding sites offered at community locations, and still be eligible for P-EBT benefits.

5. If my children attended Community Eligibility Provision schools with access to breakfast and lunch at no cost, were they eligible for P-EBT?

All children attending a Community Eligibility Provision school are eligible for P-EBT if the school closed or had reduced in-person operations.

6. My child is home schooled. Do they qualify for P-EBT?

No. P-EBT is available only to children enrolled in and receiving education services in a school, and who would normally have received free or reduced-price school meals through the NSLP or SBP if the school weren't closed.

7. How do I find out if my child is eligible for P-EBT benefits?

Eligible children will receive a notice and a P-EBT card with their name on it. Families should keep their cards as more benefits may be added later if they are eligible. Families with more than one child, will receive a P-EBT card for each eligible child.

8. What address will the new P-EBT card be mailed to?

P-EBT cards will be mailed to the address on file with the school. Contact your school to ensure they have your current mailing address.

Families submitting school meal applications with a current address should also update the address with the school. School meal systems and student information systems may not be the same.

9. We do not need these benefits. Can I decline them?

We encourage households determined eligible for P-EBT to use the benefits for your family and to help boost the local economy. Benefits are not transferable and cannot be gifted or donated. If you still wish to decline the benefits, you may destroy the card or return the card to the address on the back of the card. Benefits will be automatically removed after 274 days of non-use.

10. Where can I find more information?

Additional information regarding P-EBT can be found on the Department of Education website: <https://education.alaska.gov/cnp/pandemic-ebt>





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