



## Pandemic-EBT in Colorado

2021-2022 School Year

### Overview

The Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) and the Colorado Department of Education (CDE), thank you for your many and various efforts to ensure that children and youth in our state have access to healthy and nutritious food. Since July 2020, more than \$400 million in Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT) benefits to help families respond to the challenges of school closures during one of the most difficult economic downturns in US history have been issued. [The USDA has extended the P-EBT program for the current 2021-22 school year and into Summer of 2022.](#) Previously, CDE and CDHS were able to issue P-EBT benefits to eligible students largely based on the school or district reported learning modality. For the 2021-22 school year, USDA has increased the level of detailed data states need to collect to provide P-EBT benefits. USDA is seeking data at the student and/or grade level now that most students have returned to in-person learning. This will require a different approach to data collection than was done for the 2020-2021 school year.

According to USDA, students certified for free or reduced-price (F/RP) meals qualify for P-EBT benefits during the 2021-2022 school year if:

- (1) The student is enrolled in a school that normally participates in the National School Lunch Program (even if the school is currently using the Seamless Summer Option)
- (2) The student did not receive a F/RP meal at school for at least 5 consecutive days\* due to a COVID-19 related absence or quarantine, the student opting into a school's remote learning program, or a school or grade-level transition to remote or hybrid learning.

*\*USDA considers participation in a hybrid learning schedule to count toward the "5 consecutive days."*

For the 2021-2022 school year, CDE and CDHS are exploring two different approaches to identify students eligible for P-EBT:

- 1) *Remote Learning Modality*: Identify students who remain enrolled in their local school and opt into the school or district's remote learning program as an alternative to in-person learning.
- 2) *Positive Cases/Temporary Quarantines*: Identify schools with an COVID-19 outbreak that results in a temporary absence from in-person learning for some students due to one or more positive COVID-19 cases in the grade or school.

In order to better understand the feasibility of these proposed approaches and what data is available, CDE and CDHS will host a series of facilitated webinars.

Below is a description of each type of facilitated session. Sessions are split up by the two different approaches, 1) *Remote Learning Modality* and 2) *Positive*



### Key Takeaways:

1. P-EBT has been extended for SY2021-22 and Summer 2022
2. CDE and CDHS are holding planning sessions with districts to obtain feedback around future data collections
3. Feedback sessions are being held the week of November 15
4. Register for appropriate session(s) to let your voice be heard!



### P-EBT Resources

- [School Nutrition P-EBT Webpage](#)
- [CDHS P-EBT Webpage](#)
- [CDE Data Pipeline Webpage](#)



*Cases/Temporary Quarantines.* Instead of inviting Districts to attend a specific session, Districts can review the descriptions below and determine which session(s) is/are most appropriate for their unique situation.

### Session Descriptions and Registration Information

Learning Modality		
<p><b>Session 1A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100% remote learning while remaining enrolled in a local school</li> <li>NOT using the "05" code from October Count to track these students</li> </ul>	<p>This session is for Districts who offer an option for 100% remote learning where the student remains enrolled in a local school. We want to ensure we understand how this is being tracked and what data is available. We anticipate that these are the students who will most likely be eligible for P-EBT benefits.</p> <p>This session is primarily for Districts who are NOT using the "05" code to report 100% remote learners where the student remains enrolled in a local school so CDE can determine how best to capture the data to issue P-EBT benefits.</p> <p>If your District offers this learning modality and the primary method you are tracking those students is by using the "05" code for <a href="#">Non-School Program from the Student School Association as part of the Student October Count</a> reporting, please attend Session 1C instead.</p>	<p>Date: Nov. 16, 2021</p> <p>Day: Tuesday</p> <p>Time: 9:00-10:00 AM</p> <p>Registration Link: <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84461212693">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84461212693</a></p> <p>Suggested role(s) for session attendance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data Pipeline User</li> <li>District Data Respondent</li> <li>Any staff with knowledge of Remote Learning and how that data is tracked</li> </ul>
<p><b>Session 1B</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offering multiple learning modalities</li> <li>Offering in-person only</li> </ul>	<p>This session is for Districts who provide multiple learning modality options for students (e.g., in-person, hybrid, 100% remote). The goal is to gain an understanding of how Districts are tracking students who opted into each of the available learning modalities, the best way for that data to be submitted, and how frequently a student was able to switch from one learning modality to another.</p> <p>If your District offers multiple learning modalities, we encourage you to attend this session.</p> <p>If your District does not offer any alternative learning modalities and only offers in-person learning, we would also encourage you to attend this session so we can understand what students</p>	<p>Date: Nov. 16, 2021</p> <p>Day: Tuesday</p> <p>Time: 12:00-1:00 PM</p> <p>Registration Link: <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84461212693">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84461212693</a></p> <p>Suggested role(s) for session attendance:</p>



	<p>chose to do if they did not want to participate in in-person learning for the current school year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data Pipeline User</li> <li>• District Data Respondent</li> <li>• Any staff with knowledge of Remote Learning and how that data is tracked</li> </ul>
<p><b>Session 1C</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using the “05” code for Non-School Program from the Student School Association as part of the Student October Count reporting</li> </ul>	<p>This session is specifically for Districts who are opting to use the “05” code for <a href="#">Non-School Program from the Student School Association as part of the Student October Count reporting</a>. The “05” code refers to the tracking of students who chose a “100% Remote Learning Option” and was added to the Student October Count for the 2021-22 school year.</p> <p>If your District is opting to use that code, we encourage you to attend this session so we can gain a better understanding of your use of the “05” code. Ideally, we would utilize the data already submitted by Districts through the Student October Count to determine P-EBT eligibility but need to ensure we have a clear understanding of how the code was used to justify its use in the P-EBT plan to be submitted to USDA. <i>Please note: if approved, additional data collection for mailing information will still need to be collected. October Count data will not be the only data collected for schools within this grouping.</i></p>	<p>Date: Nov. 17, 2021</p> <p>Day: Wednesday</p> <p>Time: 10:00-11:00 AM</p> <p>Registration Link: <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84461212693">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84461212693</a></p> <p>Suggested role(s) for session attendance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data Pipeline User</li> <li>• District Data Respondent</li> <li>• Any staff with knowledge of Remote Learning and how that data is tracked</li> </ul>
<p><b>Positive COVID Cases/Temporary Quarantine</b></p>		
<p><b>Session 2A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reporting some COVID cases</li> </ul>	<p>This session is specifically for Districts who are reporting <b>some</b> of their COVID-19 positive cases to their local health department or to the CDPE.</p> <p>The goal is to get an understanding of the criteria for determining if a case gets reported or does not get reported. We also want to understand whether or not there is data available for the cases that are not reported at either the school or the district level.</p>	<p>Date: Nov. 17, 2021</p> <p>Day: Wednesday</p> <p>Time: 11:00-12:00 PM</p> <p>Registration Link: <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84461212693">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84461212693</a></p>



		<p><a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84411200000">OCogzorE9eFd6CLJ-sDpjGUV-8KWjc9</a></p> <p>Suggested role(s) for session attendance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Health Service Director</li> <li>● Nurse</li> <li>● Any staff with knowledge of COVID positive cases and how that data is tracked</li> </ul>
<p><b>Session 2B</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Not reporting any COVID cases</li> </ul>	<p>This session is specifically for Districts who are NOT reporting any cases to their local health department or to CDPHE. The goal is to understand if there is any data maintained at the school or district level to determine if impacted students may be eligible for P-EBT benefits during their time away from in-person learning.</p>	<p>Date: Nov. 17, 2021</p> <p>Day: Wednesday</p> <p>Time: 1:00-2:00 PM</p> <p>Registration Link: <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84411200000">https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwu-cu-pqzgpE9NFGLbz6rYxP7CTBjiEAaqE</a></p> <p>Suggested role(s) for session attendance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Health Service Director</li> <li>● Nurse</li> <li>● Any staff with knowledge of COVID positive cases and how that data is tracked</li> </ul>
<p><b>Session 2C</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reporting all COVID cases</li> </ul>	<p>This session is specifically for Districts who are reporting <b>all</b> COVID positive cases and/or close contacts to their local health department or to the CDPHE.</p>	<p>Date: Nov. 17, 2021</p> <p>Day: Wednesday</p> <p>Time: 2:00-3:00 PM</p>



	<p>The goal is to use the data that has already been reported to CDPHE, but we want to ensure we have a good understanding of what data is being shared and the level of detail available.</p>	<p>Registration Link:  <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84461212693">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84461212693</a></p> <p>Suggested role(s) for session attendance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Health Service Director</li> <li>● Nurse</li> <li>● Any staff with knowledge of COVID positive cases and how that data is tracked</li> </ul>
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We invite you to attend any session(s) that may be applicable to your District. **The sessions are open to any person at your District who has knowledge of the process and how data is tracked. We realize that the person(s) who are knowledgeable about how learning modality is tracked for students may be different from the person(s) who is knowledgeable about tracking data for temporary quarantines or absences. Please circulate this to any person(s) in your District who would be able to contribute to any of the sessions.**

If you are not sure which session(s) might be most appropriate for your District, [please click on this link to view suggested sessions](#) based on the District’s responses to the SY2021-22 P-EBT Planning Survey. These are purely suggestions; Districts are welcome to attend any of the sessions.

*Please note: We will utilize data already available to the greatest extent possible, but additional data will likely need to be collected from Districts to ensure we are maximizing the students who have access to P-EBT benefits.*

We thank you in advance for your participation in these sessions. The more insight we have, the more informed we are to develop a successful plan for submission to USDA.