

# Pandemic – EBT Benefits during SY 2020-21 and Summer 2021



## About:

This resource provides the most up to date information about Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT) and includes FAQs as well as pertinent information about the P-EBT Support Center. The latest information is indicated by the yellow highlights.

For training and other resources visit: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition/schoolmealeligibility>.

For questions, [p-ebt.datapipeline.support@cde.state.co.us](mailto:p-ebt.datapipeline.support@cde.state.co.us).

Quick Links:

[P-EBT Updates](#)

[FAQs for Summer P-EBT](#)

[FAQs for SY2020-21](#)

[Support Center](#)

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## Pandemic-Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) updates:

### Summer P-EBT

P-EBT has been extended to cover the summer months as an extension of the previous school year. All students approved as free and reduced-price eligible in SY 2020-21 will automatically be assessed for summer P-EBT benefits.

This collection is currently open and will close on Monday, September 27. Students reported in this collection must be newly eligible for free or reduced-price school meals as of July 1 up to August 27, 2021 and were enrolled in a school that operated the National School Lunch Program (or Summer Food Service Program) as of May 1, 2021. The collection can also include students with a 30-day carryover status. Reported students will be assessed for summer P-EBT benefits only.

The free and reduced-price meal application and promotional P-EBT materials can be found on the [School Meal Eligibility webpage](#) or the [Colorado Department of Human Services P-EBT Outreach toolkit](#).

For questions, [p-ebt.datapipeline.support@cde.state.co.us](mailto:p-ebt.datapipeline.support@cde.state.co.us).

### SY 2020-21 P-EBT

Federal guidance has been released for the [2021-22](#) school year. Further information to come.

### SY 2020-21 P-EBT

The final upload for SY 2020-21 updates closed on August 27, 2021. Eligible students included in this data collection will also be assessed for Summer P-EBT benefits.

## The P-EBT SNAP Under 6 Plan

As of June 2, families on SNAP with children under the age of 6 may be eligible for P-EBT benefits for the 2020-21 school year. For families to be eligible, children must be:

- Under the age of 6 as of October 1, 2020 and were not eligible to receive P-EBT benefits through school enrollment; AND
- A member of a household that received Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits at any time between October 1, 2020 and May 31, 2021.

For more information visit the CDHS P-EBT website: <https://cdhs.colorado.gov/p-ebt>.

## Frequently Asked Questions for Summer P-EBT Benefits

### What is the Summer P-EBT eligibility criteria for school children?

All school children who would have received free or reduced-price school meals at school under the NSLP or SBP are eligible for P-EBT benefits in the summer of 2021. This includes:

- School children who received P-EBT benefits during the last month of school year 2020-21. Because the covered summer period is an extension of the school year, this includes children who graduate at the end of the school year.
- School children who were eligible for free or reduced-price school meals under the NSLP and SBP in school year 2020-21 but did not receive P-EBT benefits in the last month of the school year because they attended school in-person and benefitted from a free or reduced-price meal service at school.

### What about students who submitted applications after school was closed for summer?

Free or reduced-price meal applications received and approved by June 30 will receive benefits for both SY2020-21 and summer.

Applications received and approved between July 1 until August 27 will be assessed for summer P-EBT benefit eligibility only. This collection will be open in September, and specific collection dates are forthcoming.

## Frequently Asked Questions for SY 2020-21 P-EBT Benefits

### What is the P-EBT eligibility criteria for school children in SY 2020-2021?

A school child is eligible for P-EBT when two conditions are met:

1. The child would have received free or reduced-priced school meals under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and/or the School Breakfast Program (SBP) if not for the COVID health emergency. This includes children who are directly certified, eligible by application or are enrolled in a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) or Provision 2 school **AND**
2. The child does not receive free or reduced-price meals at the school because the school is closed or has been operating with reduced attendance or hours for at least 5 consecutive days in the current school year.

### When will 2020-2021 P-EBT and Summer P-EBT benefits be issued?

Eligible remote learners can receive \$136.40 per school month, or \$81.84 per eligible hybrid learners based on eligibility determination made through data collection. Benefits for eligible students will be issued starting in May 2021 retroactively for the school year 2020-21. Summer P-EBT is expected to be issued in late October and will be a single \$375 lump sum payment.

School Months	Data upload	Approximate P-EBT Issuance
September 2020 - December 2020	By April 23	Late May
January 2021 - March 2021	By April 23	Late June
April 2021 - May 2021	By May 30	Late July
SY 2020-21 corrections/new eligibility	By August 27	Expected in late September
Summer: June 2021 – August 2021	Early fall	Expected in late October

### How will P-EBT benefits be issued?

If the parent already receives SNAP and has an EBT card, then P-EBT funds will be loaded directly onto that card. Where the family is not currently receiving SNAP, a card will be mailed to them, as well as a letter from CDHS explaining how to use the P-EBT card. Cards which are undeliverable will be returned to CDHS and families will be able to claim the cards through the P-EBT Support Center. Households should ensure that current P-EBT cards be kept for any future P-EBT benefit issuances.

### Can students who receive P-EBT benefits continue to access school or summer meals?

Yes. Students that receive P-EBT benefits can continue to access school and summer meals and are highly encouraged to do so! P-EBT benefits are intended to help with family’s grocery bills and supplement the days in which students could not access school meals.

### Are P-EBT benefits in competition with school meal programs?

No. P-EBT is a supplemental program to assist families with their at home grocery bill. Sponsors should continue to promote their school meal programs alongside P-EBT. It will be important for sponsors to communicate to families that they are able to, *and should*, access school meals if they also receive P-EBT benefits. By doing so, families are helping support their school meal program as well as their local grocery community.

### What items can be purchased using P-EBT funds?

Funds can be spent on eligible food items at many local retail stores, online retailers such as Amazon and Walmart, as well as farmers’ markets. For a list of eligible items, visit the USDA Food and Nutrition Service [website](#).

## Can P-EBT benefits be used with Double Up Food Bucks as well?

Yes, households can earn Double Up Food Bucks (also known as the GusNIP Incentive) and can make qualifying purchases using P-EBT benefits. For more information on Double Up Food Bucks please visit: <https://doubleupcolorado.org/>

## Colorado P-EBT Support Center

The Colorado P-EBT Support Center is open and able to answer questions on P-EBT eligibility, benefits, and card issuance/replacements.

Updates will continue to be provided within this resource, in the DISH newsletter, the [School Meal Eligibility webpage](#) and the [P-EBT Data Collection webpage](#).

### What can the Support Center do:

- Resource to households to answer questions about:
  - P-EBT or free and reduced-price meal eligibility
  - Benefit issuance
  - P-EBT card activation, issuance, or replacements
- Update mailing address for P-EBT cards
- Update parent/guardian contacts only for instances when:
  - If the currently listed parent/guardian contact is deceased, medically incapacitated, or incarcerated
  - If the currently listed parent/guardian makes the request to designate a new parent/guardian contact and provides updated contact information (new guardian name and mailing address) for the new contact

### What the Support Center cannot do:

- Accept free and reduced-price meal applications
  - Applications must be submitted to student's school/district
- Change amount of benefits paid
  - Dispute resolution process for households where student information, learning modality, eligibility etc. is incorrect, will be available
- Cannot provide benefits or student level information if data *was not* provided during the collection periods
  - Families will be directed to contact their school district to confirm eligibility for free and reduced-priced meals.
- Cannot accept any custody agreement documentation, foster/adoption documentation or parent/guardian change documentation

### P-EBT Support Center

**1-800-536-5298**

### Operating Hours



**Monday – Friday  
8am – 7:30pm**

**Saturday, 8am – Noon**

**Email:**

[cdhs\\_pebtcolorado@state.co.us](mailto:cdhs_pebtcolorado@state.co.us)

## Example District response to P-EBT enquiries (email template):

Thank you for your enquiry about P-EBT benefits for your student(s). Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) is administering the P-EBT program and have additional resources on the [CDHS P-EBT web page](#).

Please contact the support center for help with:

- Update mailing address,
- P-EBT eligibility,
- Benefit payments,
- P-EBT card activation, issuance, or replacements.

You can call the P-EBT Support Center **1-800-536-5298**, Monday – Friday 8 am – 7:30 pm, Saturday 8am – noon, or by email to [cdhs\\_pebtcolorado@state.co.us](mailto:cdhs_pebtcolorado@state.co.us).

To apply for free and reduced-price meals, [\[insert the application process for your school district here\]](#). Free and reduced-price meal applications received after May 28, may not receive P-EBT benefits until late summer.

## Spanish Example District response to P-EBT enquiries (email template):

Gracias por su consulta sobre los beneficios de P-EBT para su(s) estudiante(s). El Departamento de Servicios Humanos de Colorado (CDHS, por sus siglas en inglés) está administrando el programa P-EBT y ofrece recursos adicionales en la [página de internet de P-EBT del CDHS](#)

Comuníquese con el centro de soporte para recibir ayuda referente a:

- Cómo actualizar su dirección postal,
- Su elegibilidad para P-EBT,
- El pago de sus beneficios,
- La activación, expedición o reemplazo de tarjetas P-EBT.

Puede llamar al centro de soporte de P-EBT al **1-800-536-5298** de lunes a viernes, de 8 a.m. a 7:30 p.m. y los sábados de 8 a.m. al mediodía, o enviar correo electrónico a [cdhs\\_pebtcolorado@state.co.us](mailto:cdhs_pebtcolorado@state.co.us)

Para solicitar comidas gratuitas o a precio reducido, [\[insert the application process for your school district here\]](#). Las solicitudes de comidas gratuitas o a precio reducido que se reciban después del 28 de mayo podrían no recibir beneficios hasta fines del verano.

To learn more, visit:



- CDE, P-EBT Data Collection webpage – <https://www.cde.state.co.us/datapipeline/p-ebtdatacollection>
- CDE, School Meal Eligibility webpage – <https://www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition/schoolmealeligibility>
- CDHS, P-EBT webpage – <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdhs/p-ebt>
- USDA, P-EBT webpage – <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/state-guidance-coronavirus-pandemic-ebt-pebt>