

# NYS PANDEMIC EBT

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## Summary

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act created the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program. In New York State, the P-EBT program provides a food supplement to cover the cost of meals children would otherwise have received at school.

- **New York State will not be issuing P-EBT food benefits for the 2022-23 school year.**
- For the 2021-2022 school year, New York State received federal approval to distribute P-EBT. P-EBT requirements remain the same (based on number of days the school was closed).
- For the 2020-2021 school year, benefit amounts were based on the number of days the school was closed, or that in-person attendance was reduced due to COVID-19. The benefit expanded to include children enrolled in childcare programs.
- For the 2019-20 school year, benefit amounts were based on the number of months in which schools were closed due to COVID-19.

## Summer P-EBT

- Summer 2023, eligible students are entitled to one-time payment of \$120. Food benefits for Summer 2023 will be issued in August and will continue through September 2023.
- Summer 2022 all eligible students were entitled to a one-time payment of \$391.
- In May 2022, Summer P-EBT was made available for Summer of 2021 and provided all eligible students with \$375 in food benefits.

To qualify, households must have children who would be eligible to receive free and/or reduced-priced meals. Qualifying households do not apply for the P-EBT program, the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) administers the program and automatically issues benefits on an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card.

Families who need assistance, including to replace a lost or stolen card, can submit [this online P-EBT Information Form](#) to OTDA.

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## Description of P-EBT

### *THE BENEFIT*

P-EBT benefits are NOT SNAP benefits. They are a temporary food supplement benefit issued to households with school-aged children who would have otherwise receive free or reduced-price meals, whether they are learning remotely or at school.

P-EBT food benefits can be used like SNAP benefits to purchase unprepared food at participating supermarkets and bodegas that accept EBT transactions. A detailed list of food items that may be purchased with the P-EBT benefits can be found at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/eligible-food-items>; this is the same list for households with SNAP benefits.

P-EBT food benefits remain available and accessible on the EBT card for up to one year from the date issued. Households in NYS may check their EBT balance by visiting <https://www.connectebt.com/> or by calling 1-888-328-6399.

Households with questions about their P-EBT food benefits or those who have not receive their P-EBT food benefit should complete and submit the [\*P-EBT Contact Form\*](#).

### *BENEFIT AMOUNT*

For the 2021-2022 school year, the P-EBT amount is based on the number of school days children were absent or attending school remotely for a COVID-19 related reason.

The amount of monthly 2021-22 school year P-EBT food benefits is broken down into 3 tiers based on attendance:

- Tier 1: \$21 for children absent or remote for 1-5 school days in the month.
- Tier 2: \$78 for children absent or remote for 6-15 school days in the month.
- Tier 3: \$128 for children absent or remote 16 or more school days in the month.

P-EBT is available to children under age 6 who received SNAP during the 2021-2022. Each eligible child will receive \$31 per month for each month they received SNAP from September 2021 through June 2022.

school year, including any eligible children who attended pre-kindergarten (Pre-K). Each eligible child will receive \$31 per month for each month they received SNAP from September 2021 through June 2022. Eligible children will also receive a Summer 2022 P-EBT food benefit of \$391 if they received SNAP for the months of June, July, or August 2022. Most of the benefits for this cohort were issued in April 2023.

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Benefits will be issued automatically in April 2023 and May 2023.

For more information go to <https://otda.ny.gov/SNAP-COVID-19/>.

## Summer P-EBT

Summer 2023 P-EBT is available to students enrolled in Kindergarten through Grade 12 and participating in the National School Lunch Program AND eligible to receive free or reduced-price school meals.

Children who were under the age of six on September 1, 2022, and who received SNAP between September 2022 and May 2023 are eligible. Each eligible child will receive \$29 per month for each month they received SNAP from September 2022 to April 2023, and a prorated benefit of \$14 if they received SNAP in May 2023.

**Due to the expiration of the federal Public Health Emergency on May 11, 2023, children in this cohort are not eligible for any P-EBT food benefits after May 2023.**

Eligible students are entitled to a one-time payment of \$120.

For distribution information go <https://otda.ny.gov/SNAP-COVID-19/Frequently-Asked-Questions-Pandemic-EBT.asp#faq-q1-8>.

## Qualifying for P-EBT



### Note:

Families of non-public school students should contact the State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance to learn if they are eligible.

- Child must be enrolled in a public school, or non-public school, where free lunch is provided as part of the [National School Lunch Program](#).
- Child is eligible to receive free and/or reduced-priced meals. This includes:
  - All children attending Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) schools where all children attending public schools in the district received free or reduced-price school lunches.
  - Children who attend private, parochial and charter schools and who received free school lunches.
  - Three and four-year old children attending Universal Pre-Kindergarten and who received free school lunches.

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- Young adults ages 19 to 21 who are still in school and who received free school lunches.
- Foster children who received free school lunches.
- Children under age 6 years of age, who received SNAP during the 2021-2022.
  - Benefits are issued for each month they received SNAP from September 2021 through June 2022.

Most of the benefits for this cohort were issued in April 2023.

- There are no immigration, income, resource, or employment criteria.
  - P-EBT is not counted as a public charge.

## Applying for P-EBT

There is no application for the P-EBT program. The State will identify households and issue benefits automatically. The program is NOT administered through HRA.

## Additional Help

OTDA is providing a P-EBT helpline at 833-452-0096, available Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 5 pm, as well as contact via e-mail at [otda.sm.eisp.PEBT@otda.ny.gov](mailto:otda.sm.eisp.PEBT@otda.ny.gov).

Professionals may also use the e-mail on behalf of clients; they should indicate “Advocate Inquiry” on the subject line to facilitate routing of the inquiry to expedite the response.

Households with questions about their P-EBT food benefits or those who have not received their P-EBT food benefit should complete and submit the P-EBT Contact Form, [click here](#).

Eligible children who did not already receive a 2021-22 school year or summer 2022 automatic payment may be eligible for P-EBT food benefits. Parents/guardians will have to complete an application and submit a completed [P-EBT Pre-K form](#) to the school, in order to be considered for P-EBT food benefits.

### *RESOURCES*

- New York State P-EBT helpline 833-452-0096 or email [otda.sm.eisp.PEBT@otda.ny.gov](mailto:otda.sm.eisp.PEBT@otda.ny.gov).
- P-EBT flyer available in 7 languages, as well as recording on information session: [https://www.communityfoodadvocatesnyc.org/p-ebt?blm\\_aid=10357773](https://www.communityfoodadvocatesnyc.org/p-ebt?blm_aid=10357773)

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- FAQ's <https://otda.ny.gov/SNAP-COVID-19/Frequently-Asked-Questions-Pandemic-EBT.asp>
- FRAC Resource Library: <https://frac.org/research/resource-library/pandemic-ebt>