

P-EBT 2020-2021 School Year FAQs

Background

- **What is P-EBT?**
 - P-EBT is a program that provides temporary food benefits to families of children who normally get free or reduced-price meals at school but could not because they have been learning remotely or hybrid due to COVID-19 pandemic
- **Who can get P-EBT benefits for the 2020-2021 school Year?**
 - Children may be able to get these benefits if both the following apply:
 - They are enrolled to receive free or reduced-price meals at school that participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).
 - Their school reported school days missed at least five consecutive days due to COVID-19
 - **NOTE:** If a child does not receive free or reduced priced meals through NSLP, you may fill out an application for free or reduced-price meals at your school. Your child may be receiving free or reduced-price meals at school but would need to be approved by their school for free or reduced-price meals to receive P-EBT.
- **Do children in daycare qualify for P-EBT benefits?**
 - Children in child care may be eligible for P-EBT benefits if they meet the following:
 - Under the age of 6
 - Receives or have received Food Assistance since October 1, 2020
 - Attends child care in the area of an elementary school that was closed for five consecutive days due to COVID-19
- **How much can I get through P-EBT?**
 - The daily P-EBT benefit amount is \$6.82 (breakfast, lunch, snack) for each day a child did not attend school in person and did not get meals at school due to COVID-19. The total amount of benefits that a family may get for an individual child is based on how many days the child's school type (elementary, middle, high school) was closed due to COVID-19.
 - Because what a school reported could be different for different schools in the same district, the benefit a family gets may be different from child to child.
 - A child may not get P-EBT benefits because the child's school did not close for at least five days consecutive days. Or the child's school reported that all or a majority of students were learning in person.
 - Children who qualify for P-EBT because they meet the qualifications for Child Care P-EBT will have their amount determined by how many remote learning days were reported by the elementary school in their area.
- **Where can I use my P-EBT benefits?**
 - P-EBT benefit may be used in any store that accepts SNAP benefits. P-EBT benefits may also be used to order food online at Walmart, Amazon, and Aldi.

- **What food can I buy with P-EBT benefits?**

- You can use the benefits to buy food, such as:
 - Breads and cereals
 - Fruits and vegetables
 - Meats, fish and poultry
 - Dairy products
 - Snack foods
 - Seeds and plants to grow food for your family to eat.
- See a more detailed list of [items you can and cannot buy with the benefits here](#):
- You cannot buy hot foods with P-EBT benefits.

Getting benefits

- **Is there an application process for P-EBT?**

- If you are not automatically issued P-EBT benefits you may need to apply. Starting July 12th, you will be able to apply for P-EBT benefits through the DCF public website. You must use the unique identifier received from your school via email or mail. Your school will send this communication the week of July 6th.
- DCF will process your application and if eligible you will receive your benefits within 6-8 weeks after completing your application.

- **I had to apply for P-EBT benefit for the 2019-2020 school year. Do I need to fill out another application?**

- You may need to fill out another application with DCF. If you received a letter with a unique identifier from your school via email or mail you must apply for the 2020-2021 school year through the DCF website.

- **When will the 2020-2021 benefits be issued?**

- Directly certified students will start receiving P-EBT benefits June 29th and they will be issued over a 10-day period based on the first letter of the head of households last name. June 29th-July 8th. The benefits for school children will be provided for school days missed due to COVID-19 for the months of August 2020 through May 2021. Benefits will be issued in one lump sum. The payment will be issued to your current Kansas Benefits Card (EBT Card).

- **What should I do if I feel my child should have received P-EBT benefits but did not?**

- If you are receiving public assistance and did not receive P-EBT please contact DCF Customer Service at 1-888-369-4777
- If you are not receiving public assistance but do receive free or reduced price meals at your school through the National School Lunch Program and received a letter via email or mail from your school with a unique identifier you must apply for P-EBT through DCF's website.
- If you do not receive free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program and feel you may be eligible, please contact your school to apply.

- **Why did one of my children get a P-EBT benefit and my other child did not?**
 - P-EBT benefits are issued by school type (elementary, middle, high) per district. Because of this you may have a child that is not eligible for P-EBT because their school did not miss five consecutive days due to COVID-19.
- **My child got P-EBT benefits last year. Will they automatically get benefits this school year?**
 - No, just because a child got P-EBT benefits last year does not mean they will get them this school year. Your child must meet the requirements described above in “Who can get Pandemic EBT benefits?”
- **I think my child is eligible for free or reduced-price meals but I haven’t enrolled. Can I still get P-EBT benefits?**
 - To get P-EBT benefits, your child’s school must first have decided that your child can get free or reduced-price meals. You should contact your school for an application and apply as soon as possible.
- **What time period will P-EBT benefits cover?**
 - Benefits will be provided for school P-EBT for August 2020 through May 2021. Child are P-EBT benefits will be provided for October 2020 through May 2021.
- **How often will P-EBT benefits be issued?**
 - P-EBT benefits is a onetime payment and will start being issued in June 2021.
- **How are P-EBT benefits issued?**
 - In Kansas families eligible for P-EBT benefits who have a Kansas Benefits Card (EBT card) benefits will be added to that card. Families eligible to receive P-EBT benefits who do not have a Kansas Benefits Card will get one in the mail with benefits already added to it. The card can appear to be junk mail so pay close attention to your mail.
- **Why are there multiple P-EBT benefit amounts?**
 - The benefits a family gets may be different from child to child. There are many reasons for this, one being:
 - Your child’s school verified that some days children learned from home while other days they learned in person.
 - If you believe you did not get the right amount of P-EBT benefits, please call DCF 1-888-369-4777 Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5pm.
- **What if I do not want P-EBT benefits?**
 - If you are eligible for P-EBT and do not want the P-EBT benefits you should destroy the Kansas Benefits Card received in the mail. P-EBT is non-transferrable. You cannot sell, trade or give your P-EBT benefits to another person. It is illegal, if you do this you could become ineligible for the program or be fined.
- **What if my child is homeschooled or enrolled in a private online virtual learning program? Will they receive P-EBT benefits?**
 - No, P-EBT is only for children eligible for free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program, miss days due to COVID-19 and enrolled in a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program.
- **Are children in Foster Care eligible for P-EBT?**
 - If a foster child is enrolled in a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program and missed days due to COVID-19 the child may be eligible for P-EBT.

Kansas Benefit Card Information

- **If I have more than one child, will I get a different card for each child?**
 - If you have more than one child approved for P-EBT, you will receive all the benefits on one card.
- **How long will I have access to the P-EBT benefits on the Kansas Benefits Card?**
 - If P-EBT benefits are inactive for 12 months the benefits will be removed from the card. If the card is being actively used the benefits will remain on the card until they are gone.
- **Who will get the Kansas Benefits Card if parents or guardians are not living together?**
 - P-EBT benefits will be provided to the current household that the state has on file for the child.
- **What if I get a Kansas Benefits Card with P-EBT benefits but the child is no longer in my care?**
 - If the child is not in your care, you are not eligible to receive P-EBT benefits for the child. Call DCF at 1-888-369-4777 if you received benefits that you are not eligible for.
- **How do I set my pin for the Kansas Benefits Card?**
 - You must call 1-800-997-6666 or visit www.ebtEDGE.com. The letter that is received with your Kansas Benefits Card will inform you how to set your PIN. If you do not have a Social Security Number, please call DCF first to assist you in the first step in setting up your new Kansas Benefits Card. DCF Customer Service 1-888-369-4777
- **How do I check my balance on my Kansas Benefits Card?**
 - You may call 1-800-997-6666 or visit www.ebtEDGE.com or download the EBT Edge app on your smart phone.
- **I currently receive public assistance and have a Kansas Benefits Card. Will P-EBT benefits be loaded to that card?**
 - Yes, if eligible P-EBT benefits will be automatically added to your card.
- **I didn't receive my Kansas Benefits Card for P-EBT. What should I do?**
 - Your Kansas Benefits Card will come separate from your notification letter received from DCF and your school. Call 1-800-997-6666 or visit www.ebtEDGE.com
- **I lost my card. How do I get a new one?**
 - If you lost your Kansas Benefits Card call FIS at 1-800-997-6666 or visit www.ebtEDGE.com

The P-EBT Application

- **What is the P-EBT application?**

- The application is for families who do not receive public assistance through Kansas Department for Children and Families but are enrolled and receive free or reduced priced meals at school through the National School Lunch Program.
- By filling out the application you are providing DCF the necessary information to determine if the child(ren) in your household can get P-EBT.
- To complete the application, you will need:
 - Parent/guardian information, such as full name, date of birth, and address
 - Student information, such as, date of birth, school name, school district, school city, and unique identifier code.
- School aged children to help distinguish more between School P-EBT and Child Care P-EBT who are determined eligible for free or reduced-price meals at any point within the school year will be eligible for P-EBT back to the beginning of the school year.

- **Who should fill out the P-EBT application?**

- The application is for families who do not receive public assistance through Kansas DCF but they received a letter and unique identifier from their school via email or mail. If you did not receive a letter and unique identifier from your school but believe you should have, please contact your school. If your child does not receive free or reduced priced meals through the NSLP they are not eligible for P-EBT. If you child is eligible for free or reduced priced meals through the NSLP, went to school in person and did not miss school days due to COVID-19 they are not eligible for P-EBT.

- **What happens after I complete the application?**

- After completing the application, the information will be reviewed by a DCF worker.
 - DCF will use the unique identifier provided on the application and other information from the application to determine whether your child should receive P-EBT benefits based on their school's report of how often students learned from home during the 2020-2021 school year. You will receive a letter in the mail telling you whether your child will receive benefit, and if so, how much the benefit will be. There is nothing more you can do until you receive this letter.

- **Do I need to provide my Social Security number to complete the application?**

- No, providing your Social Security number is optional. Providing your child's Social Security number on the application is also optional, but it could help DCF in locating your child's records.

- **What can I expect after I submit the P-EBT application?**

- After you submit your application the DCF system will try to match the information you provide about your child(ren) to the information we have on record about your child(ren) who receive free or reduced price meals through their schools through the NSLP. If a match is not found, this means the system was not able to find a match with the list of children. DCF may contact you for further information. DCF will determine whether your child should receive P-EBT benefits based on their school's report of how often students learned from home during the 2020-2021 school year. You will receive a letter in the mail telling you whether your child(ren) will receive benefits, and if so, how much. For question please call DCF Customer Service 1-888-369-4777. Please allow up to 6-8 weeks after submitting your application for DCF to process your application.
- If you receive a letter saying your child is eligible for benefits, and do not have a Kansas Benefits Card you will receive the card in a separate mailing. The Kansas Benefits card you can use like a debit card to buy food. You will have to activate the card when you get it. Instructions on how to do this will be provided with the card.

- **Is there a deadline to apply for P-EBT?**

- The deadline to apply for School P-EBT is August 31, 2021.

Issues and Concerns

- **What should I do if I feel my child should have received P-EBT benefits but did not?**

- If you get a letter saying your child is not getting P-EBT benefits and you think they should be please contact DCF Customer Service at 1-888-369-4777.
- If you do not get a letter about your child's eligibility for P-EBT benefits but think you should be eligible you may need to complete the P-EBT application. Families that received a letter with a unique identifier via email or mail from their school must fill out the P-EBT application on DCF website.
- If you feel that you are eligible for P-EBT and did not receive a letter with a unique identifier via mail or email from your school, you are not eligible for P-EBT.

- **Will my immigration status be affected, or will I become a public charge if I get these benefits?**

- No, your immigration status is not affected, and you will not become a public charge.

- **If I get P-EBT can I still take advantage of the "grab-and-go" summer meals offered by schools?**

- Yes, you can still receive "grab-and-go" summer meals if you receive P-EBT.

- **I receive free or reduced-price meals for my children, would I be eligible for regular Food Assistance?**

- If you are eligible for free or reduced-price meals for your children your household may be eligible for regular Food Assistance. There are multiple ways to apply for Food Assistance. You can apply online by visiting our website <https://cssp.kees.ks.gov/apsspsspNonMed.portal> or call to request an application be mailed to you 1-888-369-4777. You may also stop by a local DCF Service Center to pick up an application.
- Harvesters SNAP Outreach Team can also help you determine if you are eligible for Food Assistance. You may call them at 1-877-653-9522 or visit the website at <https://www.harvesters.org/Get-Help/Snap>

- **What if I have issues with my Kansas Benefits Card?**
 - If you need help with your Kansas Benefits Card, please call FIS at 1-800-997-6666 or visit www.ebtEDGE.com
- **Does P-EBT cost anything? Will I have to pay back the P-EBT benefits?**
 - There is no cost to the recipient as the P-EBT benefit is entirely federally funded. Families who are eligible to receive P-EBT benefits. However, if P-EBT benefits were issued to you in error they will have to be paid back.
- **What is Summer P-EBT?**
 - P-EBT was extended to Summer 2021. It is a different program. All children who were eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program during the 2020-2021 school year, even those who did not have remote/hybrid learning during the school year will be eligible for this supplemental payment for the 2021 summer months. This supplemental benefit is a separate payment than School and Child Care P-EBT and will be issued in late summer or early fall. Watch for more information on this supplemental P-EBT benefit on the DCF public website and social media.
- **My child is enrolled in school and eligible for free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program. When my child learned remotely because of COVID-19, our school offered meals on those remote learning days. Can my child get P-EBT?**
 - While schools have had food available for students on remote learning days not all families had the ability to access those meals due to transportation issues, health concerns and/or work schedules. P-EBT was established to help ensure that food insecure households have access to food dollars when they are missing meals due to school closures due to COVID-19. Your child(ren) may be eligible for P-EBT.
- **All school children in Kansas received free meals this school year. Does that mean all children enrolled in school are eligible for P-EBT?**
 - No, children must be determined eligible for free or reduced-price meals and enrolled in the National School Lunch Program to receive P-EBT.
- **My child is enrolled in Pre-K with the school district and qualifies for free or reduced-price meals. Is my child eligible for P-EBT?**
 - If the child is enrolled in Pre-K through the school district, qualifies for free or reduced-price meals and the school missed five consecutive school days due to COVID-19 they may be eligible for P-EBT.
- **My child is enrolled in Head Start with a school district. Is my child eligible for P-EBT?**
 - If the child receives free or reduced priced meals through the National School Lunch Program, attends Head Start with the school district, and missed school days due to COVID-19 they may be eligible for P-EBT.
- **My child attends daycare in an area where the school was closed due to COVID-19. Is my child eligible for P-EBT?**
 - If your household has received Food Assistance since October 1, 2020 and your child is under the age of 6 they may be eligible for P-EBT.

- **My child is eligible for Child Care P-EBT. How do I get this benefit?**
 - If your household receives Food Assistance or has received Food Assistance anytime since October 1, 2020 the benefit will go on your Kansas Benefits Card automatically. If you lost your card, please read instructions above on how to get a new one.