

SUN Bucks



Overview for School Staff: Your Guide to Summer Food Assistance

As a school staff member, what do I need to know about SUN Bucks?

SUN Bucks, also known as Summer EBT, is a program administered by the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF). This is a permanent federal program to help Kansas families buy food for their school-aged children during the summer. Families will get a **one-time benefit of \$120 per year for each eligible child** to help buy groceries during the summer months.

SUN Bucks will serve students who qualify for free and reduced-price school meals or whose household income would meet the eligibility for free and reduced-price school meals. Some families will get benefits automatically without applying, while some eligible families need to apply to receive benefits.

Benefits are issued as a **single lump sum payment of \$120 per eligible child**. The benefit amount is subject to change each year in tandem with the USDA's Thrifty Food Plan. The amount will be announced in January of each year and can be found at SUNBucks.dcf.ks.gov.

Children can participate in SUN Bucks AND Summer Food Service Programs. We encourage families to use both of these great resources!

How will families know if they need to apply for SUN Bucks?

Households with an eligible child who can be identified by DCF will receive a letter from DCF in January 2025 notifying them that their child is eligible for SUN Bucks. These households will not need to apply. Beginning in April 2025, SUN Bucks benefits will be issued to an existing household Kansas Benefits Card (also known as an EBT card) or loaded onto a Kansas Benefits Card and mailed to their home.

Children in the custody of the DCF Secretary and enrolled in a Kansas school are eligible for SUN Bucks. Relatives, non-related kin and foster homes will need to submit a SUN Bucks application for children in their care **after April 1, 2025**, so the benefit can be issued to the correct address.

If a household did not receive a letter from DCF in January 2025 regarding SUN Bucks eligibility, they can apply through the DCF self-service portal at dcfapp.kees.ks.gov **beginning Monday, Jan. 27, 2025**. Applications for 2025 SUN Bucks must be submitted **no later than Aug. 29, 2025, at 5 p.m.** SUN Bucks benefits will be issued beginning in April 2025.

Additional information about SUN Bucks eligibility can be found at SUNBucks.dcf.ks.gov.



Help students access SUN Bucks 2025 benefits:

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Let families know about SUN Bucks through your various communication channels. Once SUN Bucks has been announced and an application is available in Kansas, families may turn to schools to learn more, including whether or not they'll need to apply. Graphics and flyers are available for you to download at SUNBucks.dcf.ks.gov.

- Please share a high-level message about SUN Bucks with your school community.
 - **Example:** SUN Bucks is a federal program administered by the Kansas Department for Children and Families to help families buy food for their eligible school-aged children during their summer months. Learn more about the SUN Bucks program and view eligibility requirements at SUNBucks.dcf.ks.gov!
- Post the 2025 SUN Bucks graphics (located at SUNBucks.dcf.ks.gov) to your social media accounts.
- Distribute the 2025 SUN Bucks general information flyer (located at SUNBucks.dcf.ks.gov) to your school families.
- Provide the 2025 SUN Bucks Family FAQ document (located at SUNBucks.dcf.ks.gov) to help families understand the program.

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Direct families to the correct source of information. Families can find 2025 Kansas SUN Bucks information at SUNBucks.dcf.ks.gov or by calling DCF Customer Service at 1.888.369.4777.

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Share this information with staff across the school who might receive questions about SUN Bucks. This might include school secretaries, administrative assistants, food service staff, guidance counselors, family services specialists, family resource officers, community school facilitators and teachers.

Thank you for being a critical part of Kansas SUN Bucks.

We appreciate your efforts to support students and families by connecting them to resources, ensuring they are well-fed, and providing what they need to succeed in school. SUN Bucks helps meet these same goals.



What are the key points for SUN Bucks 2025?

What is SUN Bucks?

- The goal of SUN Bucks is to ensure students have adequate access to food over the summer months.
- Children can participate in SUN Bucks AND Summer Food Service Programs. We encourage families to use both of these great resources!

Eligibility for SUN Bucks

- Some families will get benefits automatically without applying. Households with an eligible child who can be identified by DCF will receive a letter from DCF in January 2025 notifying them that their child is eligible. Benefits will be issued to a Kansas Benefits Card beginning in April 2025.
- Some eligible families need to apply to receive benefits. If a household did not receive a letter from DCF in January 2025 regarding SUN Bucks eligibility, they can apply through the DCF self-service portal at dcfapp.kees.ks.gov beginning Monday, Jan. 27, 2025. Applications for 2025 SUN Bucks must be submitted **no later than Aug. 29, 2025, at 5 p.m.** SUN Bucks benefits will be issued beginning in April 2025.
- Children in the custody of the DCF Secretary and enrolled in a Kansas school are eligible for SUN Bucks. Relatives, non-related kin and foster homes will need to submit a SUN Bucks application for children in their care after April 1, 2025, so the benefit can be issued to the correct address.

SUN Bucks Benefits

- SUN Bucks is a one-time benefit of \$120 per year for each eligible child to help purchase groceries during the summer months.
- SUN Bucks benefits will be issued to an existing household Kansas Benefits Card (also known as an EBT card) or loaded onto a Kansas Benefits Card and mailed to their home beginning in April 2025.
- SUN Bucks benefits can be used at any store that accepts SNAP EBT benefits. This includes farmers markets and other places that accept SNAP EBT. Benefits can also be used at some online retailers such as Walmart, Dillons, and Amazon.
- SUN Bucks benefits will be available for 122 days from the date they were issued to the Kansas Benefits Card. Unused SUN Bucks benefits will be removed from the card after 122 days. The date of issuance is the date on the Notice of Action letter the household receives from DCF when their benefits are approved.

For more information:

- A robust SUN Bucks FAQ and outreach materials can be found at: SUNBucks.dcf.ks.gov.
- SUN Bucks Income Guidelines can be found at: bit.ly/summerebtincome.
- Families can contact DCF Customer Service at: [1.888.369.4777](tel:1.888.369.4777).

