



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

YVONNE COPELAND • Director, Division of Child and Family Well
Being

Date: July 19, 2022

Attention: Food and Nutrition Services Managers and Supervisors

Subject: Summer Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT)

Priority: Information and Action

Dear County Directors of Social Services:

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) is a federally funded, temporary food assistance program that helps families during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Summer P-EBT is an extension of the school year 2021-2022 program; however, Summer P-EBT has some differences from P-EBT during the school year and is based on guidelines set by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) which has simplified eligibility for Summer P-EBT. Additionally, students and young children who are not eligible for P-EBT at the end of the school year can become eligible during the summer if they act by August 31st to apply for FNS or apply for the free or reduced-price school meal program and are approved. Like during the school year, a student or young child will only be eligible for either Student P-EBT or Child Care P-EBT, not both. Only one Summer P-EBT benefit payment will be issued per eligible student and young child.

II. POLICY PROCEDURES

A. Student Summer P-EBT

To be eligible for Summer P-EBT a student must be approved for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) free or reduced-price meals (FRP). This can be met in **one** of the following ways:

1. The student was eligible for NSLP FRP meals or attended a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school (where all students are eligible for FRP meals) in May 2022. These students will receive the one-time summer benefit between July 20th and July 30th (Summer P-EBT has a 10-day staggered issuance),

OR

2. The student applies for NSLP FRP meals at any time during the covered summer period (June 1st – August 31st) and gets approved for FRP; this includes automatic approval for FRP meal eligibility through direct certification

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because of participation in the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) program. These students will receive the one-time summer benefit in late September or October, depending on when their application was approved.

B. Child Care Summer P-EBT

To be eligible for the Summer P-EBT, a young child who does not already receive Summer P-EBT as a student must meet **both** of the following criteria:

1. The child must be 5 years old or younger as of September 1, 2021, **AND**
2. The child must receive FNS benefits. This requirement can be met in **one** of the following ways:
 - The child is included in an FNS case between May 1, 2022, and the time the July summer issuance is processed. These children will be issued their one-time benefit between July 20th and July 30th (Summer P-EBT has a 10-day staggered issuance),

OR

- The child is added to an FNS case during the summer or an FNS application is submitted by August 31, 2022 and gets approved after the July summer issuance. These children will receive their one-time summer benefit in late September or October.

C. Benefits:

The Summer P-EBT benefit is a one-time payment of \$391 for all eligible students and young children to cover the entire summer period (June, July, and August 2022). This is a standard amount set by the USDA.

The Summer P-EBT benefit amount is not dependent on COVID-19 related absences during the school year. Families will receive the full benefit amount for Summer P-EBT even if they become eligible later in the summer.

Benefits will be electronically distributed in **one of three ways**:

1. FNS households: benefits will be deposited on their existing FNS EBT card.
2. Non-FNS households who received P-EBT within the 2021-22 school year: benefits will be deposited on their existing P-EBT card.
3. Non-FNS households who did not receive P-EBT during the 2021-22 school year: benefits will be deposited to a new P-EBT card that will be mailed to the most recent address on file at the student's school. Families should confirm the address with the school.

Note: The third scenario above will result in many new P-EBT cards being mailed with Summer P-EBT benefits and counties may see an influx of undelivered cards.

P-EBT benefits will be deposited and/or mailed to the most recent known household. Benefits will not be reissued due to outdated information. However, P-EBT is meant to benefit the child and should follow the child whenever possible. If the child is part of an active FNS case and a change of circumstance is submitted that the child has changed household, then the FNS case should be updated as soon as possible to enable the benefits to be issued to the most current household. If the child is not in an FNS household and the family has a P-EBT only card, the P-EBT card should follow the child to the new household.

D. Notices:

Communication about Summer P-EBT will occur through a variety of channels including press releases, social media posts, and the North Carolina P-EBT website. Eligibility notices for Summer P-EBT will not be mailed to households. Instead, the Summer P-EBT eligibility notice (attached) will be posted to the P-EBT website at www.ncdhhs.gov/PEBT. There is no denial notice for P-EBT.

E. Reports:

1. Issuance Reports

The BIRT report **P-EBT Cases Cumulative Report 2021-22** for students and the **CC P-EBT Cases Cumulative Report** will be updated with the Summer P-EBT issuances this year and uploaded into NCFAST. It is strongly recommended that counties use all available reports in NCFAST Help, as well as the toolkits provided to assist households when they call or visit the office with specific questions regarding P-EBT benefits.

Note: The information provided on the P-EBT reports is for county use only and cannot be released to callers or to clients who may come into the office. Counties are encouraged to provide the same level of customer service for P-EBT benefits as they do for all other benefits administered through the local DSS agencies.

2. Undelivered Card Report

The **Card Status Report Undelivered County – EBTDS210-4** report is a daily report that lists all EBT cards returned as undeliverable to the EBT vendor (FIS). View here: <https://portal.ebtedge.com/govreports/ReportList.aspx>. The non-FNS P-EBT cards will also be included on this report.

If P-EBT cards are undelivered, counties are encouraged to use the available reports to assist customers when they call or visit the office with concerns regarding P-EBT benefits. This may include updating the customers address in ebtEDGE and reissuing a new card to the household if they indicate they did not receive their P-EBT card because the address on the report is incorrect or has changed.

Note: While the county is not required to work this report for P-EBT undelivered cards, the requirement to work this report for regular FNS cases is still in effect.

F. Overpayments

NCDHHS does not intend to pursue claims against households or children if it was discovered that they were incorrectly issued benefits to which they were not entitled. If overpayments are determined, county staff must investigate the case to determine if the children were listed on the household's regular benefits in error. If children were listed on the case in error, only complete a claim of overissuance for regular FNS benefits. Do **NOT** include Summer P-EBT benefits. Do not include P-EBT in any overpayment calculations.

When NCDHHS discovers instances where a child's benefits went to the wrong household or child, NCDHHS will research those cases individually and issue benefits only when the state confirms that its original issuance was made in error.

Do not enter Summer P-EBT overpayments into NCFAST.

- An error in issuance will occur only when there is a system issue that resulted in an overpayment.
- Failure to list correct or to update guardian or address information with the local school system does not constitute an error in issuance.
- NCDHHS will not issue duplicate benefits in cases of disputed guardianship if the state believes the original issuance was correct.
- If an overpayment is discovered that includes both Summer P-EBT benefits and regular benefits, establish the claim only for the regular FNS benefits and do not include any Summer P-EBT benefits.
- P-EBT overpayments will be determined by NCDHHS and tracked on a central spreadsheet at the state level.
- Report all county discovered Summer P-EBT Overpayments via dss.pi.questions@dhs.nc.gov.

G. Toolkit

A toolkit (attached) has been developed to assist county staff and partner agencies to understand the P-EBT program and in troubleshooting and answering questions. Additional information can be found on the NCDHHS P-EBT website: www.ncdhhs.gov/PEBT. The toolkit includes the following materials:

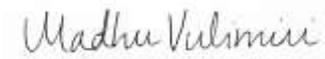
1. Summer P-EBT **Desk Reference** – *quick reference high-level overview of Summer P-EBT*
2. Summer P-EBT **Eligibility Flowchart** (ENG and SPAN) – *self-guided question and answer flow to help determine eligibility*
3. Summer P-EBT **Call Logics** – *resource for assisting customers and troubleshooting customer questions and concerns*
4. Summer P-EBT **FAQs** (ENG and SPAN) – *complete questions and answers for commonly asked questions*
5. Summer P-EBT **Eligibility Notice** (ENG and SPAN) – *recipients can view on the [P-EBT website](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/PEBT)*

6. Summer P-EBT **Flyer** (ENG and SPAN) – *informational flyer that can be posted or distributed*
7. Summer P-EBT **Stock Images** (ENG and SPAN) – *images that can be used on a website or social media handles*
8. Summer P-EBT **Website and Social Media Content** (ENG and SPAN)– *stock content can be used on websites and social media handles*

III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

This policy is effective upon receipt for all active FNS households and all non-active FNS households matched from the Department of Public Instruction for the purposes of administering P-EBT. If you have any questions, please submit them to the Continuous Quality Improvement Team (CQI) dss.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,



Madhu Vulimiri, MPP
Deputy Director
Division of Child and Family Well-Being



Carla West
Senior Director for Human Services
Division of Social Services, Economic and Family Services

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Attached (14):
Eligibility Notice (ENG and SPAN)
Summer P-EBT Call Logics
Summer P-EBT FAQs (ENG and SPAN)
Summer P-EBT Eligibility Flowchart (ENG and SPAN)
Summer P-EBT Desk Reference
Summer P-EBT Flyer (ENG and SPAN)
Summer P-EBT Website and Social Media Content
Summer P-EBT Stock Images

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