

Important Notice about your Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT)

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 school year 2021-2022 benefits; however, eligibility for Summer P-EBT is simplified and is based on guidelines set by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). **See below for more information about Summer P-EBT for students and/or young children.** A student or child will only be eligible for one category; one payment of **\$391** will be issued per eligible child for summer.

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:

- Student was approved for NSLP free or reduced-price (FRP) meals or attended a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school (where all students are eligible for FRP meals) as of May 2022. These students will get the one time summer benefit in July. **OR**
- Student applies for NSLP free or reduced-price (FRP) meals through their school at any time during the covered summer period (June 1st – August 31st) and is approved for FRP; this includes automatic approval for FRP meal eligibility through direct certification because of participation in the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) program. These students will get the one time summer benefit in September or October.

Students will get the summer benefits on their family’s current FNS EBT card, existing P-EBT card, **or** a new P-EBT card if this is the first time receiving P-EBT this school year.

Child Care Summer P-EBT (for young children)

To be eligible for Summer P-EBT, a young child who does not receive 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 can be met through one of two ways:
 - The child was included in an active FNS case during the month of May 2022. **OR** These students will get the one-time summer benefit in July.
 - The child applies for FNS between June 1st and August 31th and is later approved. These students will get the one-time summer benefit in September or October.

Young children will get the summer benefits on their family’s current FNS EBT card.

How to Activate a New Card OR Order a New Card if you Have Lost or Destroyed Your P-EBT Card:

The card works just like a debit card. Before you can use your card, you must first activate your card and select a Personal Identification Number (PIN). There are three ways to activate, check your balance and replace your card:

1. Visit **www.ebtedge.com**. Click on More Information under EBT Cardholder. You will be prompted to login and/or register your account.
2. Download and use the **EBT Edge** mobile app (can be downloaded on Google Play or Apple Store).
3. Contact the North Carolina **EBT Call Center at 1-888-622-7328** and follow the prompts.

IMPORTANT: Your activation code to create your PIN will be the date of birth (DOB) of a child in your household. **Try the DOB for each student in your household, starting with the youngest.** Enter the DOB using two digits for the month, two digits for the day, and four digits for the year. For example, if the date of birth is June 1, 2008, you would enter 06012008.

Other Information to Know and What to do if you Have Questions

The P-EBT card can be used to purchase food items at EBT authorized retailers, including most major grocery stores and some **[online retailers](#)**. Hot foods or pre-prepared foods cannot be purchased with your P-EBT benefits.

Examples of items you CAN buy with P-EBT benefits	Examples of items you CANNOT buy with P-EBT benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breads, cereals, fruits, and vegetables• Meats, fish, poultry, and dairy products• Bottled water and non-alcoholic beverages• Seeds and plants that produce food	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beer, wine, liquor, cigarettes, or tobacco• Any nonfood items, such as: pet foods, soaps, household supplies, vitamins and medicine• Hot or pre-prepared foods

If you do not want the P-EBT benefits, you should destroy the P-EBT card. If you change your mind, please call the EBT Call Center at **1-866-719-0141** to request a replacement card before your benefits expire (365 days after the benefits are issued). Selling benefits for cash is illegal and punishable by criminal prosecution. You do not have to spend all of your benefits at one time. If you have general questions about your P-EBT card, you can call the North Carolina EBT Call Center at **1-866-719-0141**. You may also visit North Carolina’s P-EBT website and virtual agent at **www.ncdhhs.gov/pebt**. If you have questions about free and reduced-price meal program, please contact your local school for more information.