

SUN Bucks Eligibility: Attends NSLP or CEP school

We will need to check the eligibility for each of your school aged children. I will ask you a series of questions, let's start with the oldest student.
First we will check if your child attends a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or is a Community Eligibility Provision school (CEP).
What is the name of your child's school?

Proceed to Flow:
"Determining
Eligibility – NO
NSLP/CEP"

Is your child part of a case for **at least one** of the following programs?
- Food and Nutrition Services (FNS, food stamps)
- Work First (TANF, cash assistance)
- Foster care
- McKinney-Vento Program (unhoused/ runaway)
- Medicaid (with household income below 185% of the federal poverty level) --> If necessary, check the income guidelines
- Cherokee Tribal Food Distribution Program (CTFDP)

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Look up child's school

Does your child get free or reduced-price (FRP) school meals? These are no cost meals that are served at school with an approved FRP application.

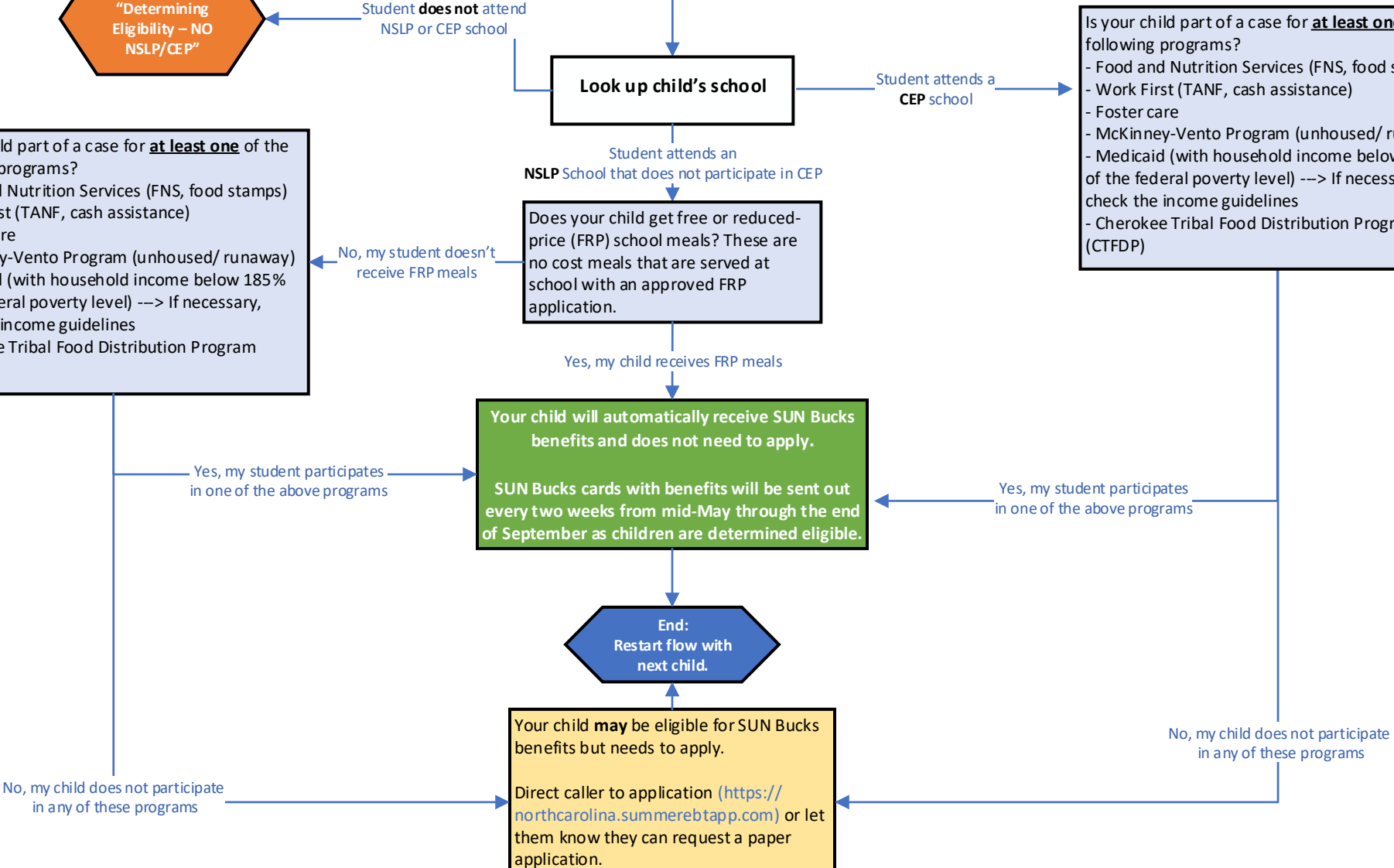
Your child will automatically receive SUN Bucks benefits and does not need to apply.

SUN Bucks cards with benefits will be sent out every two weeks from mid-May through the end of September as children are determined eligible.

End:
Restart flow with
next child.

Your child **may** be eligible for SUN Bucks benefits but needs to apply.

Direct caller to application (<https://northcarolina.summerebtapp.com>) or let them know they can request a paper application.



SUN Bucks Eligibility: Does Not Attend NSLP or CEP School

Continue from
Tab 1:

Student does not attend
a NSLP or CEP school

Is your child between the ages of 7 and 16 (**DOB between 7/2/2007 – 8/31/2018**) and also participated in **at least one** of the following programs during the '24-'25 school year (between 7/1/2024 – 8/31/2025):

- Food and Nutrition Services (FNS, food stamps)
- Work First (TANF, cash assistance)
- Foster care
- Medicaid (with household income below 185% of the federal poverty level)


Yes, my student participates
in one of the above programs **AND** is
between the ages of 7 and 16
for at least 1 day during the '24-'25
school year

No, my student does not participate
in any of these programs **AND/OR** is
not between the ages of 7 and 16
for at least 1 day during the '24-'25
school year

Your child will automatically receive SUN Bucks benefits and does not need to apply. SUN Bucks cards with benefits will be sent out every two weeks from mid-May through the end of September as new children are determined eligible.

Your child is **not** eligible for SUN Bucks benefits and they **don't** meet the criteria that allows them to apply because they do not attend an NSLP or CEP school. Only children in these types of schools can **apply** for SUN Bucks.

End:
Restart flow with
next child.

 Inform the caller of the Additional Resources available (from the **Additional Resources** page)

'24 – '25 SUN Bucks Income Eligibility Guidelines

'24 – '25 Income Eligibility Guidelines for families

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES
 [Effective from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025]

Household size	Federal poverty guidelines—100%					Reduced price meals—185%				
	Annual	Monthly	Twice-monthly	Bi-weekly	Weekly	Annual	Monthly	Twice-monthly	Bi-weekly	Weekly
48 Contiguous States, DC, Guam and Territories										
1	\$15,060	\$1,255	\$628	\$580	\$290	\$27,861	\$2,322	\$1,161	\$1,072	\$536
2	20,440	1,704	852	787	394	37,814	3,152	1,576	1,455	728
3	25,820	2,152	1,076	994	497	47,767	3,981	1,991	1,838	919
4	31,200	2,600	1,300	1,200	600	57,720	4,810	2,405	2,220	1,110
5	36,580	3,049	1,525	1,407	704	67,673	5,640	2,820	2,603	1,302
6	41,960	3,497	1,749	1,614	807	77,626	6,469	3,235	2,986	1,493
7	47,340	3,945	1,973	1,821	911	87,579	7,299	3,650	3,369	1,685
8	52,720	4,394	2,197	2,028	1014	97,532	8,128	4,064	3,752	1,876
Each add'l family member add	+ 5,380	+ 449	+ 225	+ 207	+ 104	+ 9,953	+ 830	+ 415	+ 383	+ 192

Note for Agents: Ask the caller to tell you their household income, and then tell them whether or not they meet the guidelines. **Do not** tell the caller what the limit is right away or you may get a false answer!

Additional food assistance resources available

Below are other food benefit programs if you need help with food assistance now.

Free or Reduced-Price school meals – Children part of households who meet income criteria can get free or low-cost meals at school. Since 2023, NC students who qualify for reduced-price school breakfast and lunch also receive them at no cost thanks to state funding. Contact your child's school for more information and to apply.

Food and Nutrition Services (FNS, food stamps) – Food benefits that are issued to a debit card for families to purchase groceries. More information and the online application can be found on the FNS Homepage at <https://ncdhhs.gov/fns>. You can also refer to Local DSS Directory to find an FNS office near you.

SUN Programs - Families also are encouraged to have their children, ages 18 and younger, participate in other federal Summer Nutrition Programs available at no cost to them. Through SUN Meals, kids and teens can eat meals and snacks and engage in fun fitness and educational activities during the summer at schools, parks, and other neighborhood locations. In rural areas where it may be difficult to access and participate in SUN Meals, SUN Meals To-Go may be available for pick up or delivery. Families can find more information at SummerMeals4NCKids.org

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) - Provides food assistance benefits, nutrition education, breastfeeding promotion and support, and referrals to healthcare and social services for pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, infants, and children under age 5. Learn more about WIC at <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/ncwic>.

For additional resources:

Information on the various food assistance programs offered in North Carolina can be found at the NC State Nutrition Action Coalition website at <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/child-and-family-well-being/food-and-nutrition-services-food-stamps/north-carolina-state-nutrition-action-coalition>.

If you would like information on other options to get help with food, visit <https://nc211.org> or dial 2-1-1 or 1-888-892-1162 to speak with an operator who can tell you about food assistance resources in your area.

LINKS

FNS Homepage: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/fns>

Local DSS Directory (Can be found on FNS homepage as well): <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/localDSS>

WIC: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/ncwic>

NC State Nutrition Action Coalition: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/child-and-family-well-being/food-and-nutrition-services-food-stamps/north-carolina-state-nutrition-action-coalition>

NC211: <https://nc211.org>

How families will receive their SUN Bucks benefits

SCENARIOS

Family or child currently gets **Food and Nutrition Services** (FNS, food stamps), **Work First** (TANF, cash assistance) or **Medicaid** (Provided Medicaid recipients earn < 185% FPL income threshold).

Child who has submitted a Free or Reduced-Priced (FRP) meal application and was approved is automatically eligible for SUN Bucks but does **NOT** participate in FNS (food stamps), Medicaid, or Work First (TANF, cash assistance).

I applied for SUN Bucks and was approved.

Child is currently in foster care, or was in foster care at any point during the previous program period.

Where the card is sent

Mailed a new SUN Bucks card to the address on file with your benefits caseworker. (If the family or child receives multiple sources of federal assistance including **FNS**, the **FNS** address on file will be used. If the family or child receives both **Work First** and **Medicaid** but not **FNS**, the address on file for the **Work First** program will be used)

Mailed a new SUN Bucks card to the address that was on file with your school as of April 1, 2025.

Mailed a new Sun Bucks card to the address entered in the application.

Mailed a new Sun Bucks card to the DSS office that handles the child's foster care case.

Updating Address

No need to update your address to get your SUN Bucks benefits. If an address needs to be changed **after eligibility notices have been sent**, applicants can change their address by **calling the call center**. If an address needs to be changed **before eligibility notices have been sent**, applicants can change their address **with their case worker**.

Addresses updated after March 31, 2025 may not be available for mailing cards (School must also have updated address records).

SB Call center agents can change the address in ServiceNow up until the day before the next issuance pull the applicant will be included in.

Child's caseworker will get the card to them, even if they move.

If your card is issued to a previous (or incorrect) address, you can call the EBT Call Center (option 1) to cancel the card and replace the card to be mailed to a new address. Please note, if you have passed the deadline to change your address, you must wait until the card is issued to re-order to a new address.