

SUN Bucks is back for another year in 2025!



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SUN Bucks provides \$120 of grocery-buying benefits to qualifying school-aged children. Benefits can be used to buy nutritious food during the summer at places like grocery stores, farmers markets, and some online retailers. In addition to receiving SUN Bucks, 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. More information can be found at SummerMeals4NCKids.org.

► **Who is eligible for SUN Bucks?** Many children will be automatically enrolled for SUN Bucks based on their participation in other qualifying benefit programs. Other students will need to apply. Use the chart below or visit the SUN Bucks website at ncdhhs.gov/sunbucks and use the SUNNY Chatbot's "Eligibility Quiz" to see if your child qualifies and whether you need to apply. Here you will also find more information on eligibility, application, and answers to frequently asked questions.

► Does My Student Qualify for SUN Bucks?

First, which type of school does the student attend?	Then, which scenario applies to the student?	Student is automatically qualified and does not need to apply.	Can the student apply?
1 Student attends a NSLP* school	SCENARIO A: Student participates in at least one of the following programs: 1. NSLP free or reduced-price (FRP) school meals 2. Food and Nutrition Services (FNS, SNAP, food stamps) 3. Work First (TANF, cash assistance) 4. Medicaid with household income <185% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL) 5. Foster care	✓	✗
	SCENARIO B: Student does not participate in any of the programs listed in Scenario A. Household must meet the income guidelines for SUN Bucks.	✗	✓
2 Student does not attend a NSLP* school	SCENARIO C: Student is between the ages of 7 and 16 and participates in FNS, Work First, Medicaid with household income <185% of FPL, McKinney-Vento (unhoused, runaway), CTFDP (Cherokee Tribal Food Distribution Program), or foster care.	✓	✗
	SCENARIO D: Student does not participate in any of the programs listed in FNS, Work First, or foster care.	✗	✗
3 Student attends a CEP** school	SCENARIO E: Student also participates in at least one of the programs listed in FNS, Work First, Medicaid with household income <185% of FPL, McKinney-Vento (unhoused, runaway), or foster care.	✓	✗
	SCENARIO F: Student does not participate in any of the programs listed in Scenario A. Household must meet the income guidelines for SUN Bucks.	✗	✓

***National School Lunch Program (NSLP)** is a program in most public schools and some charter and private schools. Students who meet certain criteria for both free and reduced-price meals are eligible to receive free meals through their school due to legislation from the NC General Assembly covering the cost for reduced-price meals.

****Community Eligibility Provision School (CEP)** is a type of NSLP school where all students get free meals.

Use the **School Search Tool** on the SUN Bucks website to see if your school is NSLP, CEP, or neither (does not qualify).

- ▶ **How much will families receive?** The one-time payment for the summer of 2025 is \$120 per eligible child. Benefit amounts may vary year to year and can be found on the SUN Bucks website.
- ▶ **When and how will benefits be issued?** Qualifying families will get a one-time payment per eligible student for the summer. Families will get a SUN Bucks card with benefits in the mail. Cards will be distributed starting in May and continue as additional children are determined eligible throughout the summer.
- ▶ **Does SUN Bucks replace other food assistance benefits?** No, SUN Bucks does not take the place of other food benefits. It's extra help on top of any other benefits you or your children might be getting.
- ▶ **Are there other food assistance benefits for youth in the summer?** 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.



- ▶ **How do I apply for SUN Bucks?** Go to ncdhhs.gov/sunbucksapplication to complete one single application for all the children in your household. Eligibility will be decided for each child separately.
- ▶ **Stay updated on SUN Bucks!** Search "NCDHHS" on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [X](#) to follow the account and stay in the loop for important program updates and announcements.

