



SUMMER P-EBT Benefits Questions and Answers

Q: What is P-EBT?

A: Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) is a special SNAP benefit that was issued to households with school age children who were eligible for free and reduced-price meals at school through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), but whose school was closed or had reduced hours due to COVID-19. An update in May extended eligibility to all children under age 6 who also receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits (SNAP).

Q: What is Summer P-EBT Benefits?

A: Summer P-EBT benefits are referring to the continuation of P-EBT benefits for the summer months of July and August 2021.

Q: Who is eligible for summer P-EBT benefits?

A: Summer P-EBT is being sent to all children who received free or reduced-price lunch through the NSLP while in school as well as those children under age 6 who are in SNAP households.

Q: How much can my child receive in Summer P-EBT benefits?


A: Each eligible child can receive \$187.50 in July and again in August.

Q: How will I receive my child's P-EBT benefits?

A: If you are receiving SNAP benefits, your P-EBT benefits will be added to your current SNAP EBT card. If you are not receiving SNAP benefits and you received these benefits on a P-EBT card during the 2020-2021 school year because of your child's remote learning schedule, your benefits will be issued to that same card. Benefits will be added to the same card each month so please keep your card.

Q: When can we expect to see the benefits added to my card?

A: Summer P-EBT benefits for school age kids will be issued on or about July 16 for the month of July, and again on or about August 17 for the month of August. For children under age 6, Summer P-EBT benefits will be issued on or about July 29 for the month of July, and again on or about August 27 for the month of August. See the chart below for a visual representation of benefit issuance.

 July 2021	Benefit Issue Date: School Age Children Who qualified for Free or Reduced Lunch through NSLP	Benefit Issue Date: All Children Under Age 6 Who Receive SNAP Benefits
	On or about July 16 (\$187.50 per child)	On or about July 29 (\$187.50 per child)
August 2021	On or about August 17 (\$187.50 per child)	On or about August 27 (\$187.50 per child)

Q: What if my child will be newly eligible for reduced priced meals for the 2021-2022 school year?

A: If your student is not currently eligible but might be for the 2021-2022 school year, you are encouraged to complete a Meal Benefit application by August 27, 2021 in order to be eligible to receive Summer P-EBT benefits. The application can be found in the Documents, Resources and Links Library section of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) page on the RI Department of Education (RIDE) website:

<https://www.ride.ri.gov/CNP/NutritionPrograms/NationalSchoolLunchProgram.aspx#2138983-documents-resources-links-library>.

Q: What can I do if I lost my P-EBT card?

A: If you had a card before but no longer have it, you can call 1-888-979-9939 to request a new card.

Q: Is my child still eligible if we're not receiving SNAP benefits and did not receive P-EBT benefits during the school year because they were in school full time?

A: Yes, your child may still be eligible. You will receive a P-EBT card in the mail to the address on file with your child's school. You may receive more than one card if you have multiple children eligible for the benefit. Call the number on the back of the card to activate it. You will need to enter the card number, your zip code and the birthdate of your child. Be sure to keep the card. Benefits will be issued on that same card each month.

Q: Are summer P-EBT benefits tied to the learning model at my child's school or child care facility?

A: No, all NSLP-participating schools are considered closed for the summer period and all children under age 6 receiving SNAP benefits are considered eligible for P-EBT due to schools being closed statewide. Therefore, Rhode Island does not need to issue benefits in relation to a child's school operating status.

Q: Our household is enrolled in SNAP and we just welcomed a new baby during the summer period. Are they eligible to receive P-EBT benefits for the summer?

A: If a SNAP-enrolled child is born before the end of the covered summer period they are eligible for the full summer P-EBT benefit.

Q: If my child's SNAP enrollment begins or ends during the summer of 2021, will they receive benefits?

A: Yes. If a child's SNAP enrollment is set to begin or expire during the summer of 2021, they are eligible to receive the entire P-EBT benefit for that summer.

Q: If my child graduated after the 2020–2021 academic year, will they receive P-EBT benefits for the summer of 2021?

A: Yes. Students who graduated at the end of the 2020– 2021 academic year will receive P-EBT benefits for the summer (July and August) of 2021.

Q: Does this count against me as a public charge?

A: No, it does not. Using P-EBT benefits does not impact an individual's immigration status. The public charge rule does not apply to P-EBT benefits.

Q: Can I opt out of P-EBT benefits?

A: Your participation in the program is voluntary. If you choose not to participate in the program, please dispose of your card by cutting through the magnetic stripe on the card and discard the card in a secure manner.

Q: Can I give my P-EBT benefits to someone else?

A: No. You cannot transfer the card to someone else. Buying or selling P-EBT benefits for cash is illegal and may result in disqualification from the program or having to pay a penalty.

Q: Is my child still eligible for summer meals?

A: Yes, your family can use Summer P-EBT and pick up summer meals if they are available in your city. See the downloadable flyer below for more information.

Q: Do these Summer P-EBT benefits expire?

A: P-EBT food benefits will remain available and accessible for up to one year from the date they are issued.