

**Amendment to Approved State Plan for Pandemic EBT
Children in School and/or Child Care, Summer 2021**

Issuing Agency/Office:	FNS / Child Nutrition Programs, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Title of Document:	Amendment to Approved State Plan for Pandemic EBT: Children in School and Child Care, Summer 2021
Document ID:	
Z-RIN:	
Date of Issuance:	April 26, 2021
Replaces:	N/A
Summary:	(1) This document is a template to assist States in the development of an amendment to extend their approved State plan to operate Pandemic EBT for school children and for children in child care during summer 2021. (2) This document relates to Section 1106 of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127) as amended by the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act (P.L. 116-159), the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260), and the American Rescue Plan Act, 2021 (P.L. 117-2)
Disclaimer:	The contents of this guidance document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

Additional context and background for this document can be found at:
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/state-guidance-coronavirus-pandemic-ebt-pebt>

The submission of a P-EBT state plan, associated template and related reporting obligations are addressed in OMB# 0584-0660. This emergency information collection (IC) will be replaced by a full IC package to be submitted to OMB for approval prior to its expiration date of 8/31/21. All components of this summer 2021 P-EBT package will be addressed in the full IC package.

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1. **State:** Texas
2. **Primary Citation:** Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) as amended by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
3. **Here's what FNS needs from you:**
 - a. If a State chooses to elect the U.S. standard benefit¹, simply check the box below. Next, go to letter 'c' (*Estimated total amount of P-EBT benefits*) of the template.

By checking this box, we are indicating that our State will use the U.S. standard benefit for the covered summer period.

- b. If a State chooses not to elect the U.S. standard benefit, FNS needs the following information:
 - The number of days for which benefits will be issued as part of the State's covered summer period; and
 - An explanation for how the State arrived at the number of days in the State's covered summer period. USDA will not approve a plan that does not tie the length of its covered summer period to the actual summer 2021 calendars of an enrollment-weighted average, or the median, of a representative sample of its school districts.

Response: N/A

- c. Estimated total amount of P-EBT benefits the State will issue within this amendment's date range. (Consult the appropriate table in Section 4, "Benefit Levels.")
 - Estimated amount issued to school children
 $2,900,705 \times \$375 = \$1,087,764,375$
 - Estimated amount issued to non-school children in child care
 $800,000 \times \$375 = \$300,000,000$
- d. Estimated total number of children to which the State will issue P-EBT benefits.
 - Estimated number of school children
 $2,900,705$

¹ The U.S. standard benefit – as defined in Question #5 of FNS' Q&A document titled, "Summer P-EBT Q&A" – is equal to the median number of weekdays in the sampled school districts multiplied by the daily P-EBT rate. For States in the continental U.S., that works out to a fixed summer benefit of \$375 per eligible child (55 days at \$6.82 per day). The U.S. standard benefit is higher for Alaska, Hawaii, and the territories; see Q/A #14 for a complete set of standard benefit amounts.

- Estimated number of non-school children in child care
800,000
- e. Tentative P-EBT issuance schedule (the dates on which Summer P-EBT benefits will be issued). Note that USDA encourages States to distribute summer benefits in two or even three issuances across the summer, to the extent practical.
- School children
 - Children in child care

Direct issuance for school children and children in child care that were eligible for SY 2020-2021 and school children who applied for P-EBT benefits for SY 2020-2021 by September 6, 2021 will be staggered the week of September 13, 2021.

School children who became eligible during the summer but whose NSLP applications will not be processed until the beginning of SY 2021-2022 will be issued benefits retroactively in late Fall 2021.

Students attending Residential Child Care Institutions (RCCIs) with NSLP eligible campuses will receive summer benefits retroactively in late Fall 2021.

Prior to issuing P-EBT summer benefits, HHSC will communicate with local retailers to ensure the retailers have proper stock available. Additionally, HHSC is continuing its regular communication with retailers so their supply chains are properly prepared.

- f. Describe how the State will identify eligible school children and children in child care for summer P-EBT. You must address each of the following bulleted items, below, when responding.

For school-aged children:

- Describe how the State will identify school children who received P-EBT benefits during the last month of SY 20-21.
- Describe how the State will identify school children who were eligible for free or reduced price school meals under the NSLP and SBP in SY 20-21 but did not receive P-EBT benefits in the last month of the school year because they attended school in-person and benefitted from a free or reduced price meal service at school. This includes children who were eligible for F/RP meals during the school year and did not receive P-EBT benefits because the children attended school in-person during the school year.

- Describe how the State will identify children who are determined newly eligible for free or reduced price school meals during the covered summer period. States must provide an opportunity for families to apply for free or reduced price meals using the normal application process. States and SFAs should consider maintaining a minimum presence to process Free and Reduced Price Meal applications, perhaps on a part-time or weekly basis. Another alternative is for SFAs to accept new Free and Reduced Price Meal applications during the summer but only process them after the start of the new school year. Children determined eligible on applications *submitted prior to the end of the summer* could then be issued P-EBT benefits retroactively after the start of the new school year. (Note that it is preferable to process applications and issue benefits during the summer period that the benefits are intended to cover).

For children in child care:

- Describe how the State will identify SNAP-enrolled children who received P-EBT child care benefits in the last month of the school year.
- Describe how the State will identify SNAP-enrolled children who would have received P-EBT child care benefits in the last month of the school year, but did not receive benefits because their child care facility was not closed or operating at reduced attendance or hours in that month, and neither their child care facility nor the child’s residence was in the area of a school that was closed or operating at reduced attendance or hours in that month.
- Describe how the State will identify children who are part of a SNAP household who are newly eligible for P-EBT child care benefits during the covered summer period

Response: [please use as much space as needed]

The summer period that this plan will cover is June 1, 2021 through August 29, 2021. The Summer Plan meets the same objective as the SY 2021-2021 School Plan in respect to matters such as ones related to EBT/issuance, our public information campaign, dispute resolution, and serving marginalized communities.

School-aged children:

To identify eligible school children and confirm their eligibility, Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) will utilize SY 2020-2021 data files received from Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) and Texas Education Agency (TEA). Because schools reported the virtual attendance percentage (VAP) per month and NSLP eligibility for the school year, HHSC will be able to identify NSLP eligible children regardless of their VAP in the last month of school.

Summer P-EBT benefits will be automatically issued to eligible school children who received P-EBT benefits in the last month of school during SY 2020-2021. Because schools in Texas ended

SY 2020-2021 in either May or June, HHSC will need to include both months in determining the student’s last month. Student eligibility may be determined through: SNAP enrollment; or NSLP Direct Certification process; or the 2020-2021 NSLP free/reduced household application or Texas Education Agency socioeconomic form collected during SY 2020-2021. The full P-EBT summer benefit will be issued regardless of the student’s campus VAP. School children who are not SNAP recipients and did not receive P-EBT benefits in any month of the last school year must complete a P-EBT application through the YourTexasBenefits.com by September 3, 2021 in order to receive Summer P-EBT benefits. HHSC will verify their SY 2020-2021 NSLP eligibility against data received from TEA and TDA.

Due to schools being closed over the summer and/or operating with limited staff, NSLP applications may or may not be accepted and processed during the summer months. To identify newly eligible school age children for the summer period, HHSC, TEA, and TDA have agreed to define the newly eligible summer population eligibility via the SY 2021-2022 NSLP free/reduced household application and through direct certification by August 28, 2021 and is determined NSLP eligible from June 1, 2021 through August 29, 2021. The full Summer P-EBT benefit amount will be issued to eligible school aged children. The August 28 deadline will be highlighted on Summer P-EBT outreach materials and HHSC’s website. These newly eligible school aged children will not be retroactively provided P-EBT benefits for SY 2020-2021.

An online portal has been developed to allow school districts to directly upload data for the newly eligible population. Schools must process the student eligibility applications received between June 1 and August 28, 2021 and upload data to HHSC by September 30, 2021. This includes students attending newly eligible Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and Provision 2 campus in SY 2021-2022 that complete the household application or TEA socioeconomic application and are income eligible. Students will receive P-EBT benefits without having to complete a P-EBT application.

Child care children:

HHSC will verify child care eligibility using a data extract for our eligibility system to identify eligible children receiving SNAP benefits from the beginning to the end of the covered summer period. As an administrative simplification, P-EBT benefits for the full covered summer period will be issued to children who are eligible for SNAP during the covered summer period.

4. Benefit Levels

A. U.S. standard Benefit

2021 Covered Summer Period	U.S. Standard P-EBT Benefit		
	Median Length of Covered Summer Period (weekdays)	Daily P-EBT Rate	Standard Benefit
Contiguous U.S.	55	\$6.82	\$375
Alaska	55	10.99	604
Hawaii, Guam, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico	55	7.97	438

B. State-Determined Benefit, Based on Daily Rate

Note: The daily benefit amount – \$6.82 – is only needed if a State elects to set its own covered summer period length; that is to say, if a State declines to use the U.S. standard benefit.

2021 Covered Summer Period	Free Reimbursements			Daily Total
	Lunch	Breakfast	Snack	
Contiguous U.S.	\$3.60	\$2.26	\$0.96	\$6.82
Alaska	5.79	3.64	1.56	10.99
Hawaii, Guam, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico	4.20	2.64	1.13	7.97

Notes:

1. Lunch rates include the 7 cent performance-based reimbursement and the extra 2 cents per meal received by school food authorities in which 60 percent or more of the lunches served during the second preceding school year were served free or at a reduced price.
 2. Breakfast rates are those received by "severe need" schools.
 3. Snack rates are those for afterschool snacks served in afterschool care programs
- Source: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-07-22/pdf/2020-15764.pdf>

Civil Rights Statement

The State will continue to comply with civil rights requirements, to include providing equal access to individuals with disabilities and individuals who are limited English proficient.

Administration of State P-EBT Plan

The State will administer P-EBT according to the terms of its approved State plan. In general, conditions related to benefit issuance reporting, administrative funding, and release of information remain in effect for the covered summer period. If the State wishes to change any of the terms of its plan, the State shall first notify USDA and will, if requested by USDA, submit a plan amendment for USDA review and approval.

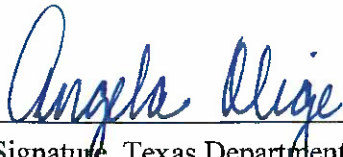
Reminder

If the State needs to make any significant changes to its Summer 2021 plan after approval, the State needs to submit an amendment to FNS that describes the change and its impact on operating summer P-EBT. USDA will review the amendment and approve allowable amendments.

Signatures and Titles of Requesting SNAP and Child Nutrition State Agency Officials:



Signature, SNAP Agency Official
Wayne Salter, Deputy Executive Commissioner



Signature, Texas Department of Agriculture
Angela Olige, Assistant Commissioner



Signature, Texas Education Agency
Mike Morath, Commissioner

Date of Request: July 29, 2021