

**Amendment to Approved State Plan for Pandemic EBT
Children in School and/or Child Care, Summer 2022**

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/or Child Care, Summer 2022
Document ID:	
Z-RIN:	
Date of Issuance:	May 9, 2022
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 2022. (2) This document relates to Section 1101 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)

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, expiration 11/30/2023.

**Amendment to Approved State Plan for Pandemic EBT
Children in School and/or Child Care, Summer 2022**

1. **State:** Arizona
2. **Primary Citation:** Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) as amended by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2022
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.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>By checking this box, we are indicating that our State will use the U.S. standard benefit for the covered summer period. We understand that USDA is only able to offer an interim standard benefit for children in child care at this time; USDA will provide states with additional guidance in mid to late June 2022 / early July that specifies the remaining amount of the USDA standard benefit for children in child care commensurate with the expiration date of the public health emergency.</i>
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- 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 2022 calendars of an enrollment-weighted average, or the median, of a representative sample of its school districts.

¹ The U.S. standard benefit – as defined in Question #5 of FNS' Summer 2022 P-EBT Q&As – is equal to the median number of weekdays in a sample of each State's largest 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 \$391 per eligible child (55 days at \$7.10 per day). The U.S. standard benefit is higher for Alaska, Hawaii, and the territories; see Q/A #15 for a complete set of standard benefit amounts.

- For the child care portion of the plan, USDA can only guarantee benefits through July 9. USDA considers this to be 1/2 through the typical State’s covered summer period. For purposes of calculating an interim summer P-EBT benefit for children in child care, States may apply this 1/2 fraction to the full summer benefit that the State has calculated for school children.
 - If the State believes that this date is more or less than 1/2 through the typical summer period of the State’s schools, please support your position with data on the most common start dates of the summer break in the State’s schools.
 - As discussed in item #16 of USDA’s P-EBT Summer 2022 Q&As, USDA will provide states with additional guidance by mid to late June / early July that specifies the remaining fraction of the full USDA standard benefit that States may provide to children in child care.

Response: Arizona will be providing the standard benefit to our Child Care and School Child populations.

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
- Estimated amount issued to non-school children in child care

Arizona estimates **550,000** school children will be eligible for a **\$391** for an estimated maximum total issuance of the Standard Benefit amount payments of approximately **\$215,050,000**

Arizona estimates **127,000** non-school children will be eligible for a **\$391** for an estimated maximum total issuance of the Standard Benefit amount payments of approximately **\$49,657,000**

d. Estimated total number of children to which the State will issue P-EBT benefits.

- Estimated number of school children
- Estimated number of non-school children in child care

Arizona estimates **550,000** school children

Arizona estimates **127,000** non-school children

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
 - Please provide tentative issuance dates for the interim benefit for children in child care, and for any remaining amount that States will be able to issue following the release of additional guidance from USDA in mid to late June / early July.

School children **Late-October 2022**

School children **Up to Late January 2023** Corrections

Children in child care **Mid-August 2022**

Children in child care **Up to Late October 2022** Corrections

- 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 21-22.
Not applicable; Arizona did not apply for SY 21-22 P-EBT for School - Aged children.
- 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 21-22 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.

Arizona will determine school children who were eligible for free or reduced-price meals under the NSLP and SBP in SY 21-22 by having School Food Authorities designate Summer P-EBT eligible students to the Arizona Department of Education electronically for purposes of Summer P-EBT issuance.

ADE will house all May 2022 reflective student enrollment information in the Arizona P-EBT eligibility (Summer) portal within the ADEConnect state application database. Beginning in September 2022, SFAs will have the ability to enter the Summer portal and select each Summer P-EBT eligible student. Eligible students must be on file as enrolled in an NSLP school in May 2022 and meet one of the following criteria:

Student is certified by the School Food Authority for free/reduced-price meal benefits via a NSLP household application or directly certified* anytime from July 1, 2021 through July 30, 2022.

Student is directly certified via the Arizona Direct Certification* system anytime from July 1, 2021 through July 30, 2022.

*AZ's Direct Certification system houses SNAP, TANF participant data, as well as, students who are determined by the state or local officials to be participating in the McKinney Vento Homeless or Migrant Education Programs, a Runaway student, or a student in Foster Care. Directly certified students will be automatically coded as eligible by ADE in the Summer portal.

- Students are enrolled in an NSLP/SBP participating school on an active Special Provision Option cycle for School Year 21-22 for Provision 2, Provision 3 or CEP. Students enrolled in SPO sites will be automatically coded as eligible by ADE in the Summer portal.

AZDES will use a data file from ADE, which will include all known eligible children enrolled in NSLP/SBP school with a free / reduced - price eligibility status and May 2022 enrollment to issue benefits. First, ADE will determine eligible students based on their last enrollment date as provided by the NSLP school. Students must have have a enrollment end date equal the last calendar month of the school year (i.e.any enrollment date that is reflective of the month of May 2022); free / reduced-price eligible students who were enrolled in an NSLP school in May 2022 would meet the eligibility for Summer P-EBT and be included in the file, if the student was also determined to be free / reduced-price eligible for school meals during School Year 2021-2022 or the covered Summer 2022 period.

- For schools that report to AzEDS (ADE's public school student database), ADE will use data reported as of June 30, 2022 for each student's corresponding NSLP site enrollment end date for SY21-22.
- For non-public schools, ADE will use the SFA provided data files collected via a manual submission process to ADE during Summer 2022. The data request will require SFAs to submit the NSLP site enrollment end date for each student listed as enrolled in SY21-22.

These children will need P-EBT specific cases built 1 per eligible child in the child's name, 1 letters per eligible child, and 1 P-EBT cards sent to the eligible child

- 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). Since the covered summer period is an extension of the school year, this includes children who graduate at the end of the school year.

To apply for Summer 2022 P-EBT ADE/AZDES will instruct households to use the NSLP household application made available by the school the child was enrolled in as of May 2022. If the household is unsuccessful in obtaining a NSLP household application, AZDES will link to ADE's generic NSLP household application and instructions on their webpage. The household will complete the NSLP household application and provide back to their local school prior to the end of the covered summer period, which is July 30, 2022. ADE/AZDES will not accept NSLP household applications directly. SFAs may process any NSLP household applications received during the covered summer period at the beginning of the school year. Majority of AZ NSLP schools open for the 2022-2023 academic school year in early to mid-August 2022.

Schools will be responsible for processing applications received during the covered summer period (June 1, 2022 – July 30, 2022). Applications must be processed in order to provide ADE the data for students determined newly eligible during the covered summer period. SFAs will submit the student data to ADE via the P-EBT Summer portal no later than Friday, September 30, 2022. ADE will send the Summer P-EBT eligibility file to AZDES no later than October 7, 2022. If schools are not able to have staff present during the covered summer period to confirm which applications were submitted prior to the end of the covered summer period (July 30, 2022), ADE is providing instructions to schools to include in the eligible student data submission to ADE only those students listed on NSLP household applications that have a visible parent/LEA administration supplied date or date stamp that is reflective of a date between June 1-July 30, 2022.

Summer P-EBT eligibility determinations (i.e. applications/direct certification, etc.) received between the covered summer period (June 1- July 30) will only be accepted through the ADE hosted P-EBT Summer portal. This will ensure students who submitted eligibility *after* the summer period are not included in Summer P-EBT issuance.

For children in child care:

- Describe how the State will identify children who are enrolled in SNAP during the covered summer period and who received P-EBT child care benefits in the last month of the school year.
- Describe how the State will identify children who are enrolled in SNAP during the covered summer period and 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:

- Describe how the State will identify children who are enrolled in SNAP during the covered summer period and who received P-EBT child care benefits in the last month of the school year.
AZDES, with the help of its eligibility system (AZTECS), will identify the eligible SNAP Under 6 population based on age requirements and monthly SNAP participation during the covered summer period. We anticipate that due to program implementation delays this will cover children enrolled during the summer period and newly eligible children and will only need to be run once.
- Describe how the State will identify children who are enrolled in SNAP during the covered summer period and 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.
Arizona is using CACFP data as a basis during the school year and as the rationale for issuing the standard benefit per FNS guidance.

- 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
AZDES, with the help of its eligibility system (AZTECS), will identify the eligible SNAP Under 6 population based on age requirements and monthly SNAP participation during the covered summer period. We anticipate that due to delays this will cover children enrolled during the summer period and newly eligible children.

4. Confirmation of remaining elements in the State’s approved school plan and/or child care plan

- Please confirm that your P-EBT summer plan mirrors your approved school year 2021-2022 plan for EBT Processing and Benefit Issuance as well as Customer Service (Sections 7 and 8 of the [SY 21-22 State Plan Template for Pandemic EBT](#)). You do not need to describe in detail how you will handle these matters if your summer plan mirrors your approved school year plan(s); but if your summer plan materially differs from your approved school year plan(s), please describe how.

Response: AZDES had a Child Care only school year plan .

General Updates from 21/22 Plan:

- New P-EBT cards will be sent to school kids, ONE card per Child - including SNAP children
- Program notice will include PINNING information - Case Number, Child Name
- Hotline will be re-established by AZDES; AZDES hotline will handle household inquiries.
- ADE hotline and P-EBTinbox@azed.gov email are currently live; ADE will handle Local Educational Agency (LEA) inquiries/calls and LEA Summer portal submission support. Parent calls/emails received by ADE will be routed to AZDES.
- Youth under 6 will be excluded for payment when they are found on the ADE student files if they have already received payment under Child Ca re Summer P-EBT

Marketing updates from 21/22 plan : ADE and AZDES will be sharing eligibility requirements and timeline with Arizona Food Bank Partners and other interested parties

AZDES and ADE P-EBT websites will be updated with the latest information to let parents/guardians know about the summer program and expected dollar amounts and issuance timeframes.

How will you provide P-EBT information to non-SNAP households? How will you provide P-EBT information to SNAP households?

- Will you provide information via mailers? Will the mailer(s) be a flyer/brochure, buck slip, letter, or some other alternative? USDA recommends flyers/brochures, because these can be used more flexibly than buck slips.
- Will you provide information via e-mail, text messages, social media, website, robo-call, and/or other electronic means?

AZDES will provide information via Social Media, Mailed Notices, third party outreach such as Food Banks and local schools. In addition AZDES will have a comprehensive website that answers questions about the program and will attempt to generate some media attention to get the word out about the program and available benefits.

Not wanting to Participate:

Describe what information you will provide for households that do not want the P-EBT benefit that is directly issued to them. How dispose of the card, etc. :

AZDES will instruct participants declining benefits to contact CLU to have their benefits expunged, card canceled and to instruct them to cut up their card.

5. Benefit Levels

A. U.S. Standard Benefit

Standard Benefit for School Children

2022 Covered Summer Period	U.S. Standard P-EBT Benefit School Children		
	Median Length of Covered Summer Period (weekdays)	Daily P-EBT Rate	Standard Benefit
Contiguous U.S.	55	\$7.10	\$391
Alaska	55	11.44	629
Hawaii, Guam, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico	55	8.28	455

Standard Benefit for Children in Child Care (Interim)

2022 Covered Summer Period	U.S. Standard P-EBT Benefit Children in Child Care (Interim)			
	Median Length of Covered Summer Period (weekdays)	Length of the Summer During the Public Health Emergency	Daily P-EBT Rate	Interim Standard Benefit
Contiguous U.S.	55	1/2	\$7.10	\$195
Alaska	55	1/2	11.44	315
Hawaii, Guam, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico	55	1/2	8.28	228

State-Determined Benefit, Based on Daily Rate

Note: The daily benefit amount – \$7.10 – 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.

2022 Covered Summer Period	Free Reimbursements			
	Lunch	Breakfast	Snack	Daily Total
Contiguous U.S.	\$3.75	\$2.35	\$1.00	\$7.10
Alaska	6.03	3.78	1.63	11.44
Hawaii, Guam, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico	4.37	2.74	1.17	8.28

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-2021-07-16/pdf/2021-15107.pdf>

Civil Rights Statement

The State will continue to comply with civil rights requirements by not discriminating on the ground of race, color, or national origin, by providing meaningful access to its programs and activities for individuals who are limited English proficient, and by providing equal access to individuals with disabilities.

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 2022 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:


Jeffrey Morley (June 20, 2022 08:10 PDT)

Signature
[Print Name and Title] Jeffrey Morley Assistant Director

Melissa Conner

Signature
[Print Name and Title]
Melissa Conner Associate Superintendent

Date of Request: _____