

**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.

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

1. **State:** Alabama
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.

<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.</i>

- 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 covered summer period; and
 - An explanation for how the **state** arrived at the number of days in the 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: [please use as much space as needed]

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.

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
 - \$178,312,500 = (475,500 x 375)
- Estimated amount issued to non-school children in child care
 - \$50,625,000 = (135,000 x 375)

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

- Estimated number of school children
 - 475,500
- Estimated number of non-school children in child care
 - 135,000

di. 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
 - See the proposed issuance chart below
- Children in child care
 - See the proposed issuance chart below

Cycle 4 Issuance: School Children and Children in Child Care	
School Districts	Benefits Issued
TBD	Sept 10
TBD	Sept 11
TBD	Sept 12
TBD	Sept 13
TBD	Sept 14
TBD	Sept 17
TBD	Sept 18
TBD	Sept 19
TBD	Sept 20
TBD	Sept 21
Child Care	Sept 25
Newly Eligible for Summer Child Care	Sept 26 or Oct 2

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.

- In order to identify school children who received P-EBT benefits during the last month of SY 20-21, the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) will provide Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR) with the data for the students that were eligible for free or reduced priced meals during the last month of school in May 2021 which will deem them eligible for Summer P-EBT.
 - This file will also include students who participated in the NSLP who were not eligible for P-EBT during the school year, due to participation in the in-person learning plans and had access to free or reduced price meals at school. DHR anticipates receiving an ALSDE student file in June which will include students eligible for P-EBT benefits for January - May 2021, which should include all students who were eligible for P-EBT benefits through the end of May. This file will include students who have graduated in May 2021.
 - High school students that graduated in May 2021 and were eligible for free or reduced priced meals in May 2021, will be eligible for Summer P-EBT and included in the data file sent by ALSDE.
 - High school students that graduated in May 2021 and were not eligible for free or reduced priced meals in May 2021, will not qualify to complete a new NSLP application for free or reduced priced meals; therefore, they will not be eligible for Summer P-EBT.
 - DHR will match the data file received from ALSDE to ensure eligible school children are issued Summer P-EBT benefits.
- 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.
 - In order to 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, ALSDE will provide DHR with the data file for the students that were eligible for free or reduced priced meals during the last month of school in May 2021 which will deem them eligible for Summer P-EBT. This file will include virtual, hybrid, and in-person children.
 - The ALSDE file will include students who participated in the NSLP who were not eligible for P-EBT during the school year, due to participation in in-person learning plans and had access to free or reduced price meals at school. DHR anticipates receiving an ALSDE data file in June that will include students eligible for P-EBT benefits for January - May 2021. The file will include all students who were eligible for P-EBT benefits through the end of May.
 - High school students that graduated in May 2021 and were eligible for free or reduced priced meals in May 2021, will be eligible for Summer P-EBT and included in the data file sent by ALSDE.

- High school students that graduated in May 2021 and were not eligible for free or reduced priced meals in May 2021, will not qualify to complete a new NSLP application for free or reduced priced meals; therefore, they will not be eligible for Summer P-EBT.
- DHR will match the data file received from ALSDE to ensure eligible school children are issued Summer P-EBT.
- 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).
 - In order to identify children who are determined newly eligible for free or reduced price school meals during the covered summer period, schools will accept NSLP applications from July 1, 2021 – August 31, 2021 for families that opt to apply for free or reduced priced meals, during an open enrollment process.
 - ALSDE will send the data file to DHR in the beginning of September 2021 for families that applied during the open enrollment period and were determined to be eligible for free or reduced priced meals.
 - Children newly certified for free or reduced priced meals during open enrollment will receive the total standard Summer P-EBT amount that the state proposes to issue (\$375 per child), regardless of the date that the child became eligible for free or reduced priced meals. Benefits will not be prorated.

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.
 - In order to identify SNAP-enrolled child care children who received P-EBT benefits during the last month of SY 20-21, ALSDE will provide DHR with the data for the students that were eligible for free or reduced priced meals during the last month of school in May 2021 which will deem them eligible for Summer P-EBT.
 - DHR will match the data file from ALSDE before adding Summer P-EBT benefits to the SNAP case for SNAP-enrolled child care children.
 - DHR will identify children under age six through SNAP participation files after the initial Summer P-EBT issuance in order to identify SNAP-enrolled child care children.

- If children under age six have not already received Summer P-EBT benefits, they will be issued Summer P-EBT benefits on the SNAP household's EBT card.
 - This is in an effort to avoid issuing duplicate Summer P-EBT benefits to a child under age six.
 - DHR does intend to issue new EBT cards for Summer P-EBT benefits to participants that did not receive an EBT card for the regular P-EBT issuance for SY 2020-2021.
 - Students that received P-EBT benefits for SY 2020-2021 will receive Summer P-EBT benefits on the same EBT card previously issued.
- 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.
 - In order to identify SNAP-enrolled children who would have received child care benefits in the last month of the school year but did not, ALSDE will provide DHR with the data file for the students that were eligible for free or reduced priced meals during the last month of school in May 2021 which will deem them eligible for Summer P-EBT.
 - DHR will identify children under age six through SNAP participation files after the initial Summer P-EBT issuance to identify SNAP-enrolled children.
 - DHR will match the household's data file from ALSDE before adding Summer P-EBT benefits to the SNAP case for SNAP-enrolled child care children.
 - This is in an effort to avoid issuing duplicate Summer P-EBT benefits to a child under age six.
 - 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.
 - In order to identify children who are part of a SNAP household who are newly eligible for P-EBT, ALSDE will send the data file to DHR for families that applied during the open enrollment period and are determined to be eligible for free or reduced priced meals.
 - DHR will match the household's data file from ALSDE before adding Summer P-EBT benefits to the SNAP case for SNAP-enrolled child care children.
 - SNAP children newly certified for free or reduced priced meals during open enrollment will receive the total standard Summer P-EBT amount that the state proposes to issue (\$375 per child), regardless of the date that the child became eligible for free or reduced priced meals. Benefits will not be prorated.

- Newly Certified SNAP Households:
 - New families approved for SNAP during the Summer P-EBT timeframe in June or July will also be deemed eligible for Summer P-EBT.
 - DHR will run a separate file to identify children under age six that are included in newly certified SNAP households.
 - DHR will match the household's data file against the ALSDE data file before adding Summer P-EBT benefits to the SNAP case for SNAP-enrolled child care children that have been newly certified for SNAP to prevent duplicate participation.
 - Summer P-EBT benefits will be added to the household's existing EBT card in September 2021.
- New SNAP Household Members:
 - Children born during the Summer P-EBT timeframe in June and July and added to SNAP existing SNAP cases will also be eligible for Summer P-EBT.
 - Children added to existing SNAP cases during the Summer P-EBT timeframe in June and July will also be eligible for Summer P-EBT.
 - DHR will run a separate file to identify children under age six that are added to existing SNAP households during the Summer P-EBT timeframe.
 - DHR will match the household's data file against the ALSDE data file before adding Summer P-EBT benefits to the SNAP case for SNAP-enrolled child care children that have been newly added to existing SNAP cases to prevent duplicate participation.
 - Summer P-EBT benefits will be added to the household's existing EBT card in September 2021.
- The state of Alabama proposes to incorporate elements of the already approved P-EBT State Plan for SY 2020-2021 to Summer P-EBT, this includes:
 - EBT Issuance:
 - Students that received P-EBT benefits for SY 2020-2021 will receive Summer P-EBT benefits on the same EBT card previously issued.
 - SNAP-enrolled child care children will have Summer P-EBT benefits added to the household's existing EBT card.
 - EBT cards issued for Summer P-EBT to newly eligible households will include the following:
 - A description of P-EBT
 - Instructions for creating a Personal Identification Number (PIN)
 - Explanation of where benefits can be used
 - Explanation of how benefits can and cannot be used (i.e., eligible foods and non-eligible items)
 - Explanation of violations and penalties, such as trafficking
 - An indication that benefits are non-transferable
 - Instructions for destroying the card, if they want to decline benefits

- ^a Information regarding a hotline, helpdesk, or website/portala that participants can reach out to, if they have questions, needa assistance (setting up a PIN, for example)a
 - General information will be included as an insert with the EBT card such as: P-EBT program information, EBT card activation, instructions for choosing a PIN number, benefits are non-transferrable, violations and penalties, instructions for destroying the card
 - EBT (Conduent) customer service number and website will be located on the EBT card
 - Additional information will be provided by ALSDE through mass text messaging, website, and written announcements
 - P-EBT description and uses will be included on thea DHR websitea
- o^a Public Information Campaign:
 - ^a The Department of Human Resources (DHR) and The Alabama Statea Department of Education (ALSDE) will issue a joint press release toa announce Summer P-EBT to the general public in order to informa parents, guardians, and the general public of program details anda eligibility criteria.a
 - ^a DHR will include Summer P-EBT program information on the DHRa website: <https://dhr.alabama.gov>. The website will also include thea Customer Service Hotline number.a
 - ^a ALSDE will contact parents/guardians with text message notificationsa and printed materials (i.e. flyers).a
 - ^a ALSDE will include Summer P-EBT program information on thea ALSDE website. <https://www.alsde.edu>.a
- o^a Dispute Resolution:
 - ^a DHR will establish a customer service plan with ALSDE to addressa discrepancies regarding household address, student information,a parent/guardian information, school enrollment, learning plan, etc.a
- o^a Serving Marginalized Communities:
 - ^a Limited English Proficiency households may contact the customera service line and a translator service will be provide free of charge.a
 - ^a The EBT insert delivered with the EBT card will include instructionsa in English and in Spanish.a
 - ^a Individuals who are hearing impaired, hard of hearing or have speecha disabilities can call the Alabama Relay Service at 711 or 800-548-2546 (TTY)
 - ^a Free Communication Assistance information is included on the DHRa website at: <https://dhr.alabama.gov/free-communication-assistance/>.a
 - ^a ALSDE offers assistance accessibility. Inquires may be submitted at:a <https://www.alsde.edu/accessibility>.a

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			
	Lunch	Breakfast	Snack	Daily Total
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.

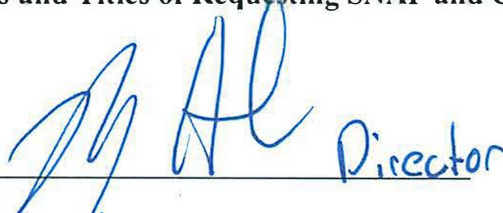
Administration of State P-EBT Plan

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:

 Director
Signature
Print Name and Title

Angelica S. Lowe Program Director
Signature
Print Name and Title

Date of Request: 6/17/21