

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

<b>Issuing Agency/Office:</b>	FNS / Child Nutrition Programs, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
<b>Title of Document:</b>	Amendment to Approved State Plan for Pandemic EBT: Children in School and Child Care, Summer 2021
<b>Document ID:</b>	
<b>Z-RIN:</b>	
<b>Date of Issuance:</b>	April 26, 2021
<b>Replaces:</b>	N/A
<b>Summary:</b>	(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)
<b>Disclaimer:</b>	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:** Georgia

2. **Primary Citation:** Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) as amended by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

**3. Response**

a. If a State chooses to elect the U.S. standard benefit<sup>1</sup>, simply check the box below.

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

b. 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.”)

**Below are the estimates based on best available data. These numbers will be updated and submitted to FNS once the SY 2020-2021 data is completely collected. Please note the admin costs of \$32,722,330 were previously provided in the original GA P-EBT plan and includes the admin costs for Summer P-EBT.**

- **Estimated amount issued to school children: \$321,172,500**
- **Estimated amount issued to non-school children in child care: \$96,720,375**

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

- **Estimated number of school children: 856,460**
- **Estimated number of non-school children in child care: 257,921**

	# Children	Summer Benefit Per Person	Total (Yearly*Children)
School children	856,460	\$375	\$321,172,500
0-5 children in SNAP	257,921	\$375	\$96,720,375
		P-EBT Benefit Total	<b>\$417,892,875</b>
		Administrative Costs	\$0
		Grand Total	<b>\$417,892,875</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

- d. 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: November and December 2021 (10-day distribution schedule will be even days between the 6<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> of each month). November 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, and 24). December 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, and 24).**
  - **Children in childcare: October 2021 for SY 20 -21 (10-day distribution schedule will be even days between the 6<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> of each month). October 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, and 24). December 2021 for all summer months benefits June and July 2021.**

**Benefits will be added to existing SNAP EBT or P-EBT cards, if applicable. For any children who have not been issued a card during SY 2020-2021, new cards and instructions will be issued.**

- e. Describe how the State will identify eligible school children and children in childcare 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.

**The State of Georgia will use data collected through the SY 2020-2021 P-EBT program to identify school children who received P-EBT benefits during the last month of SY 2020-2021. The same parties and data files will be involved. For all children eligible for P-EBT during the last month of the year, they will have summer P-EBT payments – split into two – added to any benefits they were going to receive for the school year P-EBT in September and October. The State is issuing the benefits then to avoid challenges with issuances for the SY 2020-2021 plan being bunched.**

- 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.

**The State of Georgia will use data collected from the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) about enrollment and eligibility for NSLP and SBP to determine all eligible children. The State's data processor, Georgia State University, will compare all eligible children against those who did not receive P-EBT during the last month of the year.**

**For all those who did not receive P-EBT during the last month of the school year, the State will issue them the summer benefits split into two payments as outlined in the last bullet.**

- 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).

**The State’s school districts accept applications for Free and Reduced Priced Meals throughout the summer, either through online forms or paper forms. The State cannot manage the hiring of summer staff to process applications during this period. As such, the district coordinators will process the applications when they return for SY 2021-22. The district coordinators will transfer those data directly to the Division of Family and Children Services to be processed.**

**OR**

**While the State’s school districts accept applications for Free and Reduced Priced Meals throughout the summer, no approved collection timeframe exists for the district coordinators to transmit the data to the Georgia Department of Education before summer 2022. Due to the data delays, the State is requesting a Simplifying Assumption to instead utilize existing data from DFCS for eligibility. In this case, the State will use SNAP and TANF data, which it already has in hand and is updated monthly, to determine if any children are newly eligible for the benefit over the summer. Additionally, DOE collects this data and reports data on who qualifies under the foster care or homeless provisions to capture other newly-eligible children. Homeless and foster children are identified on the DOE FRL file that is provided at the end of the school year on June 30, 2021.**

**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.

The State will use monthly SNAP files to determine children 0-5 who are eligible to receive P-EBT during the last month of the school year. The same parties and data files will be involved. For all children eligible for P-EBT during the last month of the year, they will have summer P-EBT payments in December 2021, to help with smoothing of total issuance amounts across the P-EBT program. SNAP-enrolled children who are born before the end of the covered summer period are eligible for P-EBT benefits for the entire covered summer period. These will be issued in October 2021. As an administrative simplification and to facilitate the use of benefits during the summer, children whose SNAP enrollment begins or ends during the summer covered period will be included for the entire summer period.

- 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.

The State will use monthly SNAP files to determine which children 0-5 were not eligible to receive P-EBT during the last month of the school year. The State will issue benefits to these households for the summer.

- 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

The State will continue to provide monthly SNAP file updates to its data partner, Georgia State University, to cover children who are newly eligible. The State will issue one monthly summer benefit to these children for the full 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

**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:**



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Signature  
Tom C. Rawlings  
Director, Georgia Division of Family and Children Services



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Signature  
Dr. Linette Dodson, RD LD, SNS, FAND  
Director, School Nutrition Program, Georgia Department of Education

**Date of Request:** 6/4/2021