

**Amendment to Approved State Plan for Pandemic EBT  
Children in School and/or 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  
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1. **State:** Illinois
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 benefit<sup>1</sup>, 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:** [please use as much space as needed]

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<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.

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 \$ \$ 445,638,375.00
- Estimated amount issued to non-school children in child care \$126,148,125

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

- Estimated number of school children 1,188,369\_(This is the total number of estimated Free/Reduced Lunch kids enrolled in NSLP schools for the 20/21 school year—the School P-EBT estimate was reduced to estimate the number of these children that would have lost access to an in-school meal) Additionally, it’s believed that the additional number of new students that are identified through a Summer Meal application, are offset by the number of children that left an NSLP school before end of year for the purpose of estimation resulting in no addition to our estimate total number of children.
- Estimated number of non-school children in child care 336,395

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 1 Issuances: 1<sup>st</sup> issuance: August 11<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>,  
\*Summer FRL applications clean up: September 11<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>
- Children in childcare 1 issuance: August 11<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>

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. Illinois will look at Student enrollment in the month of May 2021 at eligible schools. For any child that is enrolled, we will then review for “Free/Reduced Meal” eligibility, which is either a Low income indicator or enrollment in a CEP school. \*Additionally, the State will do additional checks to determine if any new FRL child was enrolled for the first time in the Month of June 2021 in an eligible school, and therefore was not caught when reviewing May enrollment. This will ensure no child is missed.

- 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. Illinois will look at Student enrollment in the month of May/June 2021 at eligible schools. Eligible school is defined as a serving school that participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Additionally we will look at any child that was outplaced by an NSLP Home school into a non-profit serving school. For any child that is enrolled, we will then review for “Free/Reduced Meal” eligibility, which is either a low-income indicator or enrollment in a CEP school.
- 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).

Information will be given to Schools that Free/Reduced Price Meal applications must be accepted over the summer until 7/31/2021. Many schools offer online applications, but if not, a mail in option or dropbox will be available. The School Year 20/21 information will remain editable in the IL State Board of Education Student Information System (SIS) until July 31, 2021. Schools that have staff on site through the summer will be able to update Free/Reduced Price Lunch (FRL) status for students throughout the summer. Schools that do not have Staff on sight will have time, prior to the closure of SIS, once staff are back on site to review applications that were received prior to 7/31/2021 and update FRL status for the prior school year. A final query will be ran at the end of this process to identify any children that were just made eligible over the summer period in order to issue them Summer PEBT benefits. Upload options will remain open for all nonpublic schools during this time to mirror the public school options.

- a. A free and reduced price meal application received and processed before the end of the instructional school year (i.e. the last day of classes) allows the child to receive benefits for the instructional period of SY 20-21 and summer 2021.
- b. A free and reduced price meal application received and processed after the end of the instructional school year but before the application deadline (July 31, 2021) allows the child to receive benefits for summer 2021. It does not confer

retroactive P-EBT eligibility back to the SY 20-21 school year (August or September 2020 through May or June 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. To mirror our School Process, we will also review SNAP enrollment status for the month of May/June 2021 to determine the initial group of eligible children for Summer CC PEBT.
- 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 utilize an SQL query to identify children that were eligible based on the following criteria which does not include residence;
  - Child is under 6yrs of age as of 10/01/2020
  - Child was eligible for SNAP Benefits for at least one month in May 2021 through July 2021.
  - Child has not already received Summer PEBT through the School Summer PEBT issuance process.
- 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 Illinois will consider May 2021 through July 2021 as the Summer Period for Childcare Summer PEBT benefits. The above dot points is what will be utilized. We will not look for receipt of ChildCare PEBT benefit during the school year, but rather that they met the above dot point criteria.

**Response:** [please use as much space as needed]

- Additional Statement: Summer P-EBT, unless otherwise stated will mirror the School P-EBT process. Updates will occur to the same P-EBT Website and other materials to include Summer P-EBT information for both School and Childcare eligible children.

#### 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	<b>\$375</b>
Alaska	55	10.99	<b>604</b>
Hawaii, Guam, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico	55	7.97	<b>438</b>

##### 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
<b>Contiguous U.S.</b>	\$3.60	\$2.26	\$0.96	<b>\$6.82</b>
<b>Alaska</b>	5.79	3.64	1.56	<b>10.99</b>
<b>Hawaii, Guam, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico</b>	4.20	2.64	1.13	<b>7.97</b>

**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:**

*Leslie K. Cully*

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Signature

Print Name and Title

Leslie K. Cully, Illinois SNAP Director

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Signature

Print Name and Title

**Date of Request:** \_\_\_\_\_