

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

<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/or Child Care, Summer 2022
<b>Document ID:</b>	
<b>Z-RIN:</b>	
<b>Date of Issuance:</b>	May 9, 2022
<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 childcare 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:** Illinois
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 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. 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.*

- 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.
  - For the childcare 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 childcare, States may apply this 1/2 fraction to the full summer benefit that the State has calculated for school children.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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.

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

- 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 \$ 428,937,948.00
  - Estimated amount issued to non-school children in childcare \$ 127,160,238.00  
(\*based upon the assumption we will issue full benefit to children in Child Care, and PHE will continue through August)
- d. Estimated total number of children to which the State will issue P-EBT benefits.
  - Estimated number of school children 1,097,028
  - Estimated number of non-school children in childcare 325,218
- 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 September 11<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>
  - Children in childcare August 11<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>

- Please provide tentative issuance dates for the interim benefit for children in childcare, 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. \*Illinois is flexible enough in our process to be able to issue in August the correct amount based upon the outcome of the PHE for children in childcare. No additional issuance will be needed.
- f. 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 21-22.
- Illinois will look at Student enrollment in the month of May/June 2022 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.
- 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.
- Illinois will look at Student enrollment in the month of May/June 2022 at eligible schools. Eligible school is defined as a serving school that participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) of Seamless Summer Option (SSO). 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 7/15/2022. The School Year 21/22 information will remain editable in the IL State Board of Education Student Information System (SIS) until July 31, 2022 for public school eligible students. The data file will be pulled AFTER 7/31/2022 to ensure accurate student data for public eligible students. For non-public eligible schools, the upload options will remain open to ensure accurate eligible student data.

- 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 meet the Free/Reduced criteria for the instructional period of SY 21-22 and summer 2022.
- A free and reduced-price meal application received and processed after the end of the instructional school year but before the application deadline (July 15, 2022) allows the child to receive benefits for summer 2022. It does not confer retroactive P-EBT eligibility back to the SY 21-22 school year (August/September 2021 through May/June 2022).
- 

**For children in childcare:**

- Describe how the State will identify children who are enrolled in SNAP during the covered summer period and who received P-EBT childcare 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 2022 to determine the initial group of eligible children for Summer CC PEBT. Additionally, we will also look at the month of July 2022 to capture any newly eligible SNAP children during the Summer months. This makes the full period May 2022-July 2022 to meet the “received SNAP” component of eligibility.

- 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.
- The State will utilize an SQL query to identify children that were eligible based on the following criteria which does not include residence, as CC P-EBT has been issued Statewide:
  - Child is under 6 years of age as of 10/01/2021
  - Child was eligible for SNAP Benefits for at least one month in May 2022 through July 2022.
  - 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 childcare benefits during the covered summer period
- Illinois will consider May 2022 through July 2022 as the Summer Period for childcare Summer PEBT benefits. The above dot points will be utilized. We will not look for receipt of Child Care PEBT benefit during the school year, but rather that they met the above dot point criteria.

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

**4. Confirmation of remaining elements in the State’s approved school plan and/or childcare 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:** [please use as much space as needed]

Additional Statement: Summer P-EBT, unless otherwise stated will mirror the prior approved School and Child Care P-EBT processes. 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.

**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	<b>\$7.10</b>
Alaska	6.03	3.78	1.63	<b>11.44</b>
Hawaii, Guam, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico	4.37	2.74	1.17	<b>8.28</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-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.

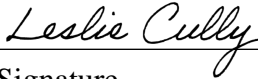
**Administration of State P-EBT Plan**

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:**

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature  
 Leslie K. Cully, Illinois SNAP Director



---

Signature  
[Print Name and Title]

**Date of Request: June 22, 2022**