

**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
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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
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1. **State:** Maryland
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.

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]

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: **\$174,375,000**
 - Estimated amount issued to non-school children in child care: **\$32,625,000**
- d. Estimated total number of children to which the State will issue P-EBT benefits.
- Estimated number of school children: **465,000**
 - Estimated number of non-school children in child care: **87,000**
- 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: **Summer P-EBT benefits will be issued in two equal installments in August and September 2021**
 - Children in child care: **Summer P-EBT benefits will be issued in two equal installments in August and September 2021**
- 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.
- 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.

- 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).

Response:

- **The Maryland Department of Human Services (MD DHS) will identify children who received P-EBT benefits during the last month of SY 20-21. As Maryland’s SNAP administering agency, MD DHS developed a system for issuing P-EBT benefits to eligible recipients. The system maintains records of current and past P-EBT recipients. The State will use June P-EBT issuance data to identify school children who received benefits in the last month of SY 20-21.**
- **School children who are eligible for free or reduced price school meals under the NSLP and SBP in SY 20-21 that 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 will be added to Summer P-EBT benefits files.**
- **In Maryland, Local School Systems (LSS) are responsible for making sure parents and guardians have an opportunity to apply for free or reduced-price meals. The LSSs will follow their normal NSLP application processes and submit data to MSDE of newly eligible children during the summer of 2021. Data will be shared with MD DHS for retroactive P-EBT benefit processing after the start of the new school year. SFA-administered direct certification will also continue throughout the covered summer period.**

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.

- 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.
- 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:

- **As Maryland’s SNAP administering agency, MD DHS developed a system for issuing P-EBT benefits to eligible recipients. The system maintains records of current and past P-EBT recipients. The State will use June issuance data to identify school children who received benefits in the last month of SY 20-21. Children under 6 must be SNAP-enrolled during the summer period to receive P-EBT benefits. Children whose SNAP enrollment begins or ends during the summer period will receive the full summer benefit.**
- **Maryland does not need to create a process to 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. As of June 15, 2021, the last day of SY 20-21, all SNAP-enrolled children were eligible for P-EBT because they lived in the area of a school that was closed or operating at reduced capacity as result of the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- **MD DHS will perform monthly analyses of SNAP administrative records to 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 analyses will be performed at the end of the months of June, July, and August.**

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>

5. Other important details

- The State of Maryland confirms this Summer plan mirrors the School plan in most respects not specifically here (i.e. matters related to EBT/issuance, public information campaign, dispute resolution, and serving marginalized communities).
- School meal applications that are received prior to the end of the school year will qualify children for benefits for SY 20-21 and Summer 2021. Any application received after the end of the school year, but before September 2 2021, will qualify a child for Summer 2021 P-EBT.
- The State will observe August 27, 2021 the end date of the Summer period. This date will serve as the NSLP application deadline, which will be used to determine eligibility for Summer P-EBT benefits. School meal applications received after the deadline will not qualify children for summer P-EBT benefits.

- Children eligible for P-EBT school benefits in the summer are those who received P-EBT school benefits in the last month of the school year, or who would have received P-EBT in the last month of the school year but did not because they attended school in-person. Maryland will confirm children were enrolled in school as of the last month of the school year.

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:

Signature
Print Name and Title

Signature
Print Name and Title

Date of Request: _____