

**Amendment to Approved State Plan for Pandemic EBT  
Children in School and/or Childcare, 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 Childcare, 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>	<p>(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.</p> <p>(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)</p>
<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/snapp/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.*

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

1. **State:** Maine
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. We understand that USDA is only able to offer an interim standard benefit for children in childcare 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 childcare 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 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.
    - 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 childcare.

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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.

**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: **\$26,163,500**
  - Estimated amount issued to non-school children in childcare: **\$7,507,200**
- d. Estimated total number of children to which the State will issue P-EBT benefits.
  - Estimated number of school children: **67,000**
  - Estimated number of non-school children in childcare: **19,200**
- 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.
  - **The first issuance, for June through August, is estimated to occur 09/27/2022.**
  - **The second issuance, for reconciliation of the first issuance (primarily due to newly established FaRL or SNAP eligibility), is estimated to occur 10/25/2022.**
- 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 School Year 2021-2022 (SY 21-22). **Maine will not specifically identify these children as school year issuance will be based on a count of eligible days over a period of several months. However, this point is moot as we will identify all children eligible for free or reduced-price school meals of which this group is a subset.**
- 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. **Maine will issue P- EBT benefits to all school-aged children on the master list we create from FaRL eligibility data provided by the Department of Education (DOE). Only children enrolled in the final month of school will be eligible for Summer P-EBT benefits.**
- 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). **Maine will ensure that schools know of their obligation to accept FaRL applications throughout the summer and that they will be processed through 09/20/2022. The DOE will allow applications for FaRL received between 07/01/2022, and 08/31/2022, to determine eligibility for both Summer P-EBT and the school year 2022-2023 (SY 22-23) FaRL. Maine's DOE will provide an updated list a week prior to each issuance date. Applications received by schools after 08/31/2022 will not be used to determine eligibility for Summer P-EBT. Applications received by schools during the summer will not confer retroactive eligibility for SY 21-22 P-EBT. Applications for children newly starting kindergarten will only determine eligibility for SY (22-23). They may, of course, be eligible for summer 2022 childcare benefits if they are under age 6 and are enrolled in SNAP during the summer.**

**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. **Maine will have copies of the maintenance and issuance files that were sent to the EBT provider, Conduent.**
- Describe how the State will identify children who are enrolled in SNAP during the covered summer period and who would have received P-EBT childcare benefits in the last month of the school year, but did not receive benefits because their childcare facility was not closed or operating at reduced attendance or hours in that month, and neither their childcare 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. **Maine's identification process for these children will be to first create an issuance population for the summer P-EBT benefit that includes all children with both a date of birth after 09/01/2015 and open to a SNAP household with a monthly benefit >\$0 in June, July or August of 2022. Second, the children in the FaRL eligible list will be removed from this list as they will, instead, receive the school aged benefit. Children must be SNAP enrolled during the summer period to receive P-EBT childcare benefits during the summer.**
- 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. **Maine will query the automated eligibility system database for "distinct" children with both a date of birth after 09/01/2015, and open to a SNAP household with a monthly benefit >\$0 in June, July or August of 2022. Children in the FaRL eligible list will be removed from this list as they will instead receive the school aged benefit. Children must be SNAP enrolled during the summer period to receive P-EBT childcare benefits during the summer.**

**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 SY 21-22 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. **The summer P-EBT plan mirrors Maine's approved SY 21-22 plan for EBT Processing and Benefit Issuance, as well as Customer Service.**

**5. Benefit Levels**

**A. U.S. 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	<b>\$391</b>
Alaska	55	\$11.44	<b>\$629</b>
Hawaii, Guam, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico	55	\$8.28	<b>\$455</b>

**B. U.S. Standard Benefit for Children in Childcare**

2022 Covered Summer Period	U.S. Standard P-EBT Benefit Children in Childcare			
	Median Length of Covered Summer Period (weekdays)	Length of the Summer During the Public Health Emergency	Daily P-EBT Rate	Standard Benefit
Contiguous U.S.	55	½	\$7.10	<b>\$195</b>
Alaska	55	½	\$11.44	<b>\$315</b>
Hawaii, Guam, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico	55	½	\$8.28	<b>\$228</b>

### C. 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-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 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:**

DocuSigned by:



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Signature

Anthony Pelotte, Director, Office for Family Independence

DocuSigned by:



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Signature

Daniel Chuhta, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Education

**Date of Request:** 8/18/2022