



Food and Nutrition  
Service

1320 Braddock Place  
Alexandria, VA  
22314

September 16, 2020

SUBJECT: Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer Program (P-EBT)  
Approval of Massachusetts's State Plan Amendment

TO: Kurt Messner  
Regional Administrator  
Northeast Regional Office

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127) (FFCRA or the Act) authorized a temporary assistance program for households with children affected by school closures during the public health emergency declared on January 27, 2020. On March 20, USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) announced and began accepting State plans for the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) program. Pursuant to the authority granted under Section 1101 of the Act, FNS approved Massachusetts's plan to operate P-EBT for school year 2019-2020 on April 17.

On September 14, Massachusetts submitted an amendment to operate P-EBT in school year 2020-2021 through the September 30 expiration of the program.

FNS approves Massachusetts's P-EBT plan amendment. The State estimates that it will issue up to \$60.6 million in P-EBT benefits for the start of school year 2020-2021 through September. The State agency must notify the FNS Regional Office immediately if it is preparing to issue an amount for the start of school year 2020-2021 different than the estimate in this plan.

Massachusetts understands that the State must issue all P-EBT benefits by September 30.

FNS reminds Massachusetts of the importance of accurate reporting of P-EBT benefits on forms FNS-292B, FNS-46, and FNS-388. Please refer to FNS's [April 27 memo on P-EBT reporting](#), and do not hesitate to contact your Regional Office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Cindy Long  
Deputy Administrator  
Child Nutrition Programs