

**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
Children in School and/or Child Care, Summer 2021**

1. **State:** Missouri

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]

Missouri will build off the school year 2020-2021 P-EBT plan to administer the summer 2021 P-EBT plan. EBT issuance, public awareness campaign, and dispute resolution will follow the same guidelines as described in Missouri's 2020-2021 P-BET school year plan.

Missouri requests to re-open the Summer P-EBT application process for two weeks from September 27th until October 8th 2021 to allow for additional applications from households with children who were eligible for Free and Reduced Price Meals during the 2020 – 2021 school year. Missouri does not anticipate additional funding will be needed to re-open the Summer P-EBT application process as we do not anticipate exceeding the numbers from our original estimates.

Applications received during this additional processing window will not be considered for school year 2020-2021 benefits and will only be evaluated for eligibility for Summer P-EBT benefits.

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.

All application procedures will remain the same for individuals that apply during the re-open timeframe of September 27th through October 8th, 2021.

- 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
 - Estimated amount issued to non-school children in child care
- d. Estimated total number of children to which the State will issue P-EBT benefits.
 - Estimated number of school children
 - Estimated number of non-school children in child care
- 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
 - Children in child care
- 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).

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: [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.
 - Estimated amount issued to school children
 - $288,988 \times \text{U.S standard of } 55 \times \$6.82 \text{ per day } (\$375) = \$108,370,500$
 - Estimated amount issued to non-school children in child care
 - $150,028 \times \text{U.S standard of } 55 \times \$6.82 \text{ per day } (\$375) = \$56,260,500$
- d. Estimated total number of children to which the State will issue P-EBT benefits.
 - Estimated number of school children: 288,988 based on participants in spring 2020 when all schools in Missouri were closed.
 - Estimated number of non-school children in child care: 150,028 approximate children under age 6.
- e. Tentative P-EBT issuance schedule (the dates on which Summer P-EBT benefits will be issued).

- School children
- Children in child care

P-EBT benefits for SNAP children in child care will be issued in two separate payments. Half of the eligible population will be issued on 08/27/2021 and the second half will be issued 09/03/2021.

P-EBT benefits for 2020-2021 school children will be issued to children with existing P-EBT cards by 09/10/2021, and for children who do not have a P-EBT card, benefits will be issued upon determination of eligibility after reviewing the child's school district's free or reduced lunch list.

Children who did not receive school year 2020-2021 P-EBT because their school building operated without closure or reduced hours will complete the Summer P-EBT application by **10/08/2021**. This application gathers information about the child's school district and household address. Once the application is received and crosschecked with the DESE school lunch list, child(ren) on the list will receive Summer P-EBT benefits.

DESE will have schools send FSD a list of children who applied on or before 08/20/2021 and deemed eligible, but were not on the schools previous years Free and Reduced meals list. FSD will then cross-reference Summer P-EBT-2021 applications and process accordingly.

- 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.

In order to identify children who received P-EBT benefits during the last month of SY 20-21, Missouri will utilize its eligibility system, which was used to issue P EBT benefits for the 20-21 school year.

- 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.

Missouri Department of Social Services (DSS) will work with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to obtain a list of children who were on active school roles in May of 2021.

Schools who haven't already done so will be requested to submit their list of students eligible for NSLP during the month of May 2021. Schools will be informed that graduating seniors should be included on the list.

NOTE: High school students who graduated in May 2021 and were not eligible for free or reduced priced meals in May 2021, will not qualify to complete a NSLP application for free or reduced priced meals; therefore, they will not be eligible for Summer P-EBT.

- 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).

DSS\DESE has determined that new free\reduced applications for this population will be accepted over the summer but will not be processed until after the start of the new school year. Thus, summer P-EBT for this population would be issued retroactively. The deadline for applications to be accepted and issued a summer P-EBT benefit will be August 20, 2021. This is based on the average return to school date for the 2021-2022 school year.

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:

The State will complete a data extract from our integrated eligibility system to identify those children age 6 and under receiving SNAP benefits as of May 2021 and during the months of June, July and August up until the 20th, as this population is deemed as

enrolled in a covered childcare facility. As an administrative simplification, we are issuing P-EBT benefits for the full covered summer period to children whose SNAP enrollment begins or ends during the covered summer period.

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>

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: _____