

**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 child care 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: North Dakota**

**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 enrollmentweighted average, or the median, of a representative sample of its school districts.
- For the child care portion of the plan, USDA can only guarantee benefits through July

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<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.

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

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- 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:**

- 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:  $4140,500 \times \$391 = \$15,835,500$
  - Estimated amount issued to non-school children in childcare on SNAP:  $11,492 \times \$391 = \$4,493,372$
- d. Estimated total number of children to which the State will issue P-EBT benefits.
  - Estimated number of school children Current enrollment:  
35,500
    - New eligible during summer 5,000
    - Total school children 40,500
  - Estimated number of non-school children in child care on SNAP: 11,492
- 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 State will complete 3 issuances. Each issuance will be for a separate group of students/children and will be for the full amount (\$391). Multiple issuances will be done to ensure benefits are issued to those students that become eligible over the summer.

Issuance Schedule:

School children (tentative)

- First issuance: Jul 20, 2022, pending approval of the plan. If the plan is not approved by that date, issuance will occur within two days of plan approval.
- Second issuance August 24, 2022
- Final issuance October 5, 2022

Children in child care

- Please provide tentative issuance dates for the interim benefit for children in child care, 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.
- Anticipated for July 20, 2022, or two (2) days after the approval of the Summer P-EBT plan.

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 21-22.
  - i. The State did not submit a SY 21-22 P-EBT plan for school children and will not be able to identify school children who received P-EBT benefits during the last month of SY 21-22.
- 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 inperson during the school year.
  - i. The State has a statewide Student Enrollment System (STARS) that collects and reports the Free/Reduced Price eligibility status by individual student. The State will use end-of-school year data to determine school children eligible for Summer P-EBT.
  - ii. The children that North Dakota schools will report to the state for payment of P-EBT summer benefits are the following:
    - 1 Children that were certified for free or reduced price school meals during school year 2021-2022,
    - 2 Children that attended schools that participated in the Community Eligibility Provision or Provisions 2 or 3 in school year 2021-2022,

- iii. For schools that don't report enrollment in STARS, the State will collect a spreadsheet listing the names of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals at the end of 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).
  - i. The SFAs will accept and process new Free and Reduced Price Meal applications during the summer. The State will compile data from the districts that have reported their new eligibility data for SY 22-23 on newly eligible school children in August and will retroactively issue PEBT benefits during the second issuance on August 24, 2022. **Children starting kindergarten in the fall of 2022 are not eligible for P-EBT summer benefits.**
  - ii. After the start of the school year, once districts submit their SY 22-23 enrollment information into STARS. The remaining children that have been determined eligible on applications *submitted prior to the end of the summer* will be issued P-EBT benefits retroactively after the start of the new school year during the final benefit issuance on October 5, 2022. The State has set August 19, 2022, as the last day of summer as most ND districts will begin classes during the week of August 22.
  - iii. The State will collect spreadsheets with information on newly eligible school children from schools that don't report enrollment in STARS and will retroactively issue PEBT benefits during the final issuance on October 5, 2022.

**For children in child care:**

- Describe how the State will identify children who are enrolled in SNAP during the covered summer period and who received P-EBT child care benefits in the last month of the school year.
- 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.

- 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:**

North Dakota will identify children who began school year 2021-2022 under the age of 6 and were part of a household that receives SNAP.

North Dakota will make the reasonable simplifying assumption that children who began receiving benefits as a 5-year-old earlier in school year 2021-2022 remain enrolled in a covered childcare facility through the summer as-long-as the household continues to receive SNAP.

North Dakota understands that a child's eligibility for Summer P-EBT benefits ends when a child's SNAP enrollment ends.

**4. Confirmation of remaining elements in the State's approved school plan and/or child care plan**

- Please confirm that your P-EBT summer plan mirrors your approved school year 20212022 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:**

- The Summer P-EBT plan mirrors the school year 21-22 plan for EBT Processing and Benefit Issuance and Customer service with one exception: Cards will be issued to each individual school child, not to the household. If the child's address is not available or incorrect, NDDPI will contact districts for assistance in identifying the correct contact information. The districts will also assist NDDPI in distributing the cards when possible.

## 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	\$7.10

<b>Alaska</b>	6.03	3.78	1.63	<b>11.44</b>
<b>Hawaii, Guam, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico</b>	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  
 Deb Kramer, SNAP Director

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Director, Child Nutrition and Food  
 Distribution Programs



Signature

**Date of Request:** July 15, 2022