

**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: Ohio
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.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>By checking this box, we are indicating that our State will use the U.S. standard benefit for the covered summer period.</i>

- 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] [N/A](#)

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 = \$327,396,375
 - Estimated amount issued to non-school children in child care (In Ohio, it is children under the age 6, on SNAP, not in school) = \$82,616,250
- d. Estimated total number of children to which the State will issue P-EBT benefits.
- Estimated number of school children = 873,057
 - Estimated number of non-school children in child care (In Ohio, it is children under the age 6, on SNAP, not in school) = 220,310
- 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 (In Ohio, it is children under the age of 6, on SNAP, not in school)

Ohio plans to split the 55 days of summer P-EBT benefits into two issuances for both school children and children on SNAP, under the age of 6, who are not in school. The first issuance will contain 28 days of benefits at \$6.82 per day. The second issuance will contain 27 days of benefits at \$6.82 per day.

Ohio plans to collect data on all eligible school children and children under the age of 6 on SNAP by June 17, 2021. Within 2 weeks of having the P-EBT Summer Plan amendment approved by FNS and children data submitted, Ohio will issue benefits. The second issuance will be by the end of July.

- 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: Ohio schools will be asked to provide data of all children who are eligible for free or reduced price meals under the NSLP or SBP (including all students at Community Eligible Provision (CEP) and Provision 2 eligible schools) regardless of whether they received P-EBT benefits in the year. The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) sent a communication to all eligible schools and school districts explaining the eligibility criteria for Summer P-EBT, and procedures for submitting eligible student data on May 21, 2021. This communication stated that graduating seniors are to be included in the data. Schools are responsible for: verifying school year 2020-2021 NSLP eligibility through the direct certification process, community eligibility provision or Provision 2, the NSLP application process, or through school year 2019-2020 eligibility.

Management Council Ohio Education Computer Network (Management Council) has developed a web service that will enable each participating school or school district to submit verified and updated data for eligible students. Management Council will securely host this data and make that data visible only to identified contacts at each school.

ODE will provide Management Council with a file of all participating schools and school districts in the NSLP, including CEP or Provision 2 status for buildings and districts, as well as any newly qualified or participating schools or school districts. Management Council will coordinate all activities with ODE and ODJFS, including file transfers, data collections, verification of NSLP participating schools, and data transfers. Management Council will securely deliver to ODJFS data files via secure file transfer. Then ODJFS will transfer the data file to the EBT vendor for card and benefit issuance.

Schools will be directed to collect NSLP applications throughout the summer until July 31, 2021. The applications will have to be processed and eligibility determined with the data submitted to

Management Council between August 9-September 9, 2021. Benefits for these newly eligible children will be issued by the end of September 2021 for \$6.82 per day for 55 days.

For children in child care: (In Ohio, it is children under the age 6, on SNAP, not in school)

- 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]

For purposes of P-EBT, Ohio considers all children under the age of 6, on SNAP, and not in school to be enrolled in child care. In order to determine eligibility and issue summer benefits, ODJFS will create a file that includes the entire population of SNAP children under the age of 6 (or who turned 6 during the school year and continued to meet all other P-EBT eligibility requirements through the end of the school year, May 31, 2021) and send the file to Management Council. Management Council will then compare the SNAP children to its list of students eligible for summer P-EBT based on NSLP eligibility. Children who are not on the NSLP school student list will be included on a file sent to the EBT vendor for summer P-EBT benefits to be added to their current SNAP account.

In mid-September, children under the age of 6 who became eligible for SNAP, between June 1-July 31, 2021, will be sent to Management Council and compared to their list of NSLP eligible students. If the child is not on the NSLP list, they will be sent on a file to the EBT vendor who will issue them the summer P-EBT benefit of \$6.82 per day for 55 days. These benefits will be issued by the end of September 2021.

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:

Betsy Suver, Betsy Suver Ohio SNAP Director

Signature
Print Name and Title

Brigette Hires

Signature
Print Name and Title Brigette Hires, Child Nutrition Program Manager

Date of Request: 6/9/2021