

**Amendment to Approved State Plan for Pandemic EBT  
Children in School and/or Child Care, 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 Child Care, Summer 2021
<b>Document ID:</b>	
<b>Z-RIN:</b>	
<b>Date of Issuance:</b>	April 26, 2021
<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 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)
<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/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:** Oklahoma
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.

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<i>By checking this box, we are indicating that our State will use the U.S. standard benefit for the covered summer period.</i>
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- 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]

*The State of Oklahoma elects to use the standard benefit amount of \$375 per child.*

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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.

- 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 **\$131,250,0000**
  - Estimated amount issued to non-school children in child care **\$25,862,250**
- d. Estimated total number of children to which the State will issue P-EBT benefits.
- Estimated number of school children *As DHS has not received a complete detailed data set of all eligible children for the 20-21 school year, Oklahoma will estimate the number to be approximately 350,000 children. This is, given the number of children that DHS issued PEBT benefits to in the 19-20 school year was in excess of 400,000 children.*
  - Estimated number of non-school children in child care **68,966**
- 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
- This response is for both populations. Oklahoma’s standard process of benefit issuance is staggered by case number groups. These group are defined by the last number of their 6 digit case number. For example, case Q482697 would be considered to be in group 7. Issuance occurs in groups of 3 (789, 456, 0123). The 3 staggered groupings will each receive a one-time standard issuance of \$375. This will take place after we complete the regular 20-21 school year benefits scheduled to begin 9/17/21. We have the intention to issue Summer PEBT benefits by 11/30/21.*
- 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.
- Oklahoma DHS will issue benefits based upon the May 2021 eligible child file as provided by the State Department of Education (SDE). FNS has made the simplified assumption that graduating seniors will be eligible to receive Summer PEBT and therefore will be included in the benefit. This file would only include children who were enrolled as of May 2021 and/or graduated in May 2021.*
- 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.

***The data file received from SDE includes eligible children that had 0 days eligibility during the regular school year, as they attended in person. Those children will be included in the Summer PEBT benefit.***

- 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).

***Oklahoma will consider the 90 days of summer being defined as 6/1/21-8/29/21. DHS will utilize the complete list of all NSLP/CEP eligible school children as of May 2021 to issue Summer PEBT benefits. Said listing will only include children that were enrolled in school/childcare in May 2021. Individuals that graduated in May 2021 will be included in that listing as FNS has issued the simplifying assumption that they are eligible for Summer PEBT benefits. Children starting school in the fall of 2021 will NOT be included in the benefit for school children as they are not eligible for Summer PEBT unless they were already enrolled as of May 2021. DHS will ask SDE to report children that were enrolled during the 20-21 school year that became newly eligible for NSLP over the summer. However, they could be included in the childcare population if and ONLY if they were included on a SNAP case for all, or part, the summer months.***

#### **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.  
***Oklahoma will use the child care data file for May 2021 to issue Summer PEBT benefits. All children in that data file under the age of 6 will be included in the Summer PEBT benefit issuance, even if they resided in a county where no children were eligible for PEBT benefits in May 2021, the last month of the school year. Just as FNS has assumed that all schools are deemed closed for the summer, so are all child care facilities. In addition, these children must be enrolled on a SNAP case for some or all the summer period in order to receive the full \$375 benefit amount. Children whose enrollment in the SNAP program either begins or ends during the summer period are eligible for the full summer benefit amount.***
- 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.

*Oklahoma will be employing the FNS simplified assumption that all children under the age of 6 are considered enrolled in child care. In addition, Oklahoma will be utilizing the FNS assumption that all schools and child care facilities are considered closed for the summer. Children whose enrollment in the SNAP program either begins or ends during the summer period are eligible for the full summer benefit amount per statute. DHS will cross reference the children with the data of all children that already were issued summer PEBT benefits to ensure that there will not be cases of double issuance, resulting in an overpayment.*

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

*Oklahoma will consider the 90 days of summer being defined as 6/1/21-08/29/21. DHS will utilize the FNS assumption that both schools and child care facilities are to be considered closed for the summer period which makes this entire population eligible for full standard benefit if \$375. . Summer PEBT benefit issuance will only include children that were considered to be enrolled in school/childcare in May 2021 per statute. The assumption that all children under the age of 6 that are SNAP recipients are to be considered enrolled in childcare results in any child under the age of 6 that becomes a SNAP recipient in May 21, would be considered as being enrolled in childcare which makes the child eligible for Summer PEBT by FNS guidance*

**Response:** [please use as much space as needed]

#### 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	<b>\$375</b>
Alaska	55	10.99	<b>604</b>
Hawaii, Guam, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico	55	7.97	<b>438</b>

##### 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	<b>\$6.82</b>
Alaska	5.79	3.64	1.56	<b>10.99</b>
Hawaii, Guam, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico	4.20	2.64	1.13	<b>7.97</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.

*Oklahoma’s Summer PEBT plan mirrors our previously approved School year 20-21 plan regarding general aspects of both plans such as dispute resolution, public information campaign, serving marginalized communities and EBT issuance will be consider to be a practice standard for the Summer PEBT plan21*

**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.

*Oklahoma acknowledges amendment requirement for any significant changes to Plan, Issuance, Process, etc.*

**Signatures and Titles of Requesting SNAP and Child Nutrition State Agency Officials:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature  
*Joy Hoffmeister, State Superintendent of Schools*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature  
*Justin Brown, Director for the Oklahoma Department of Human Services*

**Date of Request:** 9/21/21