

**Amendment to Approved State Plan for Pandemic EBT
Children in School and/or Child Care, Summer 2022**

Issuing Agency/Office:	FNS / Child Nutrition Programs, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
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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 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
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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 2022
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. 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 enrollment-weighted 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 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.

¹ 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.

- 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: [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. (Consult the appropriate table in Section 4, "Benefit Levels.")
 - Estimated amount issued to school children \$340,928,758 (873,057 kids multiplied by 55 days at \$7.10 per day)
 - Estimated amount issued to non-school children in child care \$82,245,548 (210,616 kids multiplied by 55 days at \$7.10 per day)
- 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 210,616
- 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
 - 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.

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 \$7.10 per day. The second issuance will contain 27 days of benefits at \$7.10 per day.

Ohio has been collecting data on all eligible school children since the beginning of May 2022 in anticipation of Summer P-EBT. Assuming approval of the summer plan in early to mid-June, Ohio plans to issue the first summer benefit by the end of June to school children and children under the age of 6 on SNAP by the end of June 2022. The second issuance will be by the end of July. Exact dates of benefits issuance will be dependent upon issuance dates of SNAP emergency allotments, school year P-EBT, and “child care” P-EBT.

ODJFS staggers the availability date of the benefits. The availability date depends on the date the benefit file is sent to the EBT vendor, how many days are remaining in the month, and the first letter of the last name of the child. More specifically, from the date of the benefit file generation, Ohio will divide 26 (number of letters in the alphabet) by the number of days remaining in that month. Then the availability of benefits will be staggered on those remaining days by groups of letters in the alphabet. For example, in June if the benefit file is sent on 6/20, there will 10 days left in the month. 26 divided by 10 equals 2.6, rounded up to 3. Thus, the availability date for kids whose last name is starting with A, B, and C will be 6/20; availability date for D, E and F will be 6/21; availability date for G, H and I will be 6/22 and so on and so forth until the availability date for all alphabet letters (i.e. kids) is established. This process applies to all SNAP children under the age of 6 not in school. If for some reason benefit files get delayed beyond the end of the month, the benefit will be combined with the next month’s benefit and follow the staggered issuance process. This is the same process for school age children in receipt of P-EBT benefits.

- 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.
- 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 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).

At the beginning of May 2022, Ohio schools were 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. This communication stated that graduating seniors are to be included in the data. Schools are responsible for: verifying school year 2021-2022 NSLP eligibility through the direct certification process, community eligibility provision or Provision 2, the NSLP application process, or through school year 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 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, 2022. The applications will have to be processed and eligibility determined with the data submitted to Management Council between August 8-September 8, 2022. Benefits for these newly eligible children will be issued by the end of September 2022 for \$7.10 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 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: [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, 2022) 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, 2022, 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 \$7.10 per day for 55 days. These benefits will be issued by the end of September 2022.

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 2021-2022 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: [please use as much space as needed]

Ohio confirms our summer P-EBT plan mirrors our approved school year 2021-2022 plan for EBT processing and benefit issuance and customer service.

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
Alaska	6.03	3.78	1.63	11.44
Hawaii, Guam, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico	4.37	2.74	1.17	8.28

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:

Betsy Suver

Signature
 Betsy Suver, SNAP Director

Brigette Hires

Signature

[Print Name and Title] Brigette Hires, Child Nutrition Programs Director

Date of Request: 6/6/2022