

**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
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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:** Oregon
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]

A representative sample of the ten largest school districts in Oregon was reviewed to conclude that the enrollment weighted average summer period of 57 days (excluding weekends but including holidays as P-EBT-eligible days). These 10 districts account for 42% of total state enrollment in NSLP-participating schools (based on Oregon’s SY 19-20 FNS-742). Additional support to justify a 57-day benefit provided in the table below.

SFA Name	SFA City	Enrollment (from FNS-742 for SY 2019-2020)	First day of 2021 summer break	Last day of 2021 summer break	length of summer minus weekends but including holidays	(enrollment x days to calculate weighted average)
Portland SD	Portland	46,392	12-Jun	31-Aug	56	2,597,952
Salem/Keizer SD 24J	Salem	41,270	17-Jun	7-Sep	58	2,393,660
Beaverton SD 48J	Hillsboro	40,838	19-Jun	7-Sep	56	2,286,928
Hillsboro SD 1J	Hillsboro	19,785	18-Jun	8-Sep	58	1,147,530
Bend/LaPine SD	Bend	17,761	18-Jun	7-Sep	57	1,012,377
North Clackamas SD 12	Milwaukie	17,411	18-Jun	6-Sep	56	975,016
Eugene SD 4J	EUGENE	16,749	18-Jun	9-Sep	59	988,191
Medford SD 549	Medford	13,037	10-Jun	22-Aug	52	677,924
Tigard-Tualatin SD 23J	Tigard	12,443	17-Jun	8-Sep	59	734,137
Gresham-Barlow SD 10J	Gresham	11,742	17-Jun	6-Sep	57	669,294
Weighted average summer break, 10 biggest school districts (42% of total state enrollment):						56.8

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
- Estimated amount issued to non-school children in child care

Oregon estimates issuing \$167,270,000 in Summer P-EBT benefits, this includes:

- \$133,053,560 for school age children; and
- \$34,216,440 for non-school children in childcare.

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

Oregon estimates 430,000 children in Oregon will be issued Summer P-EBT benefits, this includes:

- 342,040 school age children; and
- 87,960 SNAP non-school children in childcare.

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 P-EBT summer covered period benefit will be separated over two months, September and October, and will be staggered over a nine-day period based on the last digit of the individuals P-EBT case number. The first issuance will be dispersed no later than September 30th, 2021 and the last issuance will be dispersed no later than October 30th, 2021 for all eligible students and children.

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).

The Oregon School Meals Benefit System (OSMB) creates a P-EBT household for each eligible student reported by ODE or school points of contact. OSMB consumes and retains institution enrollment information including the date the student became enrolled or disenrolled in the institution. OSMB will confirm student enrollment criteria for P-EBT is met prior to issuing Summer P-EBT covered period benefits.

In Oregon, as with many states, school staff are limited on-site to support new applications for free or reduced priced meals during summer vacation. This creates barriers to accessing crucial food benefits for families and puts undue hardship on community and state resources without offering a path to resolve the concern. To help alleviate this barrier, ODE will facilitate determining P-EBT summer eligibility when school staff are not available.

ODE will use a Summer P-EBT online application in accordance with USDA eligibility guidelines to determine eligibility for the P-EBT summer period only. P-EBT eligibility determinations will not impact free and reduced-price meal eligibility. School staff will certify applications for meal benefits. The application deadline for the Summer P-EBT online application is September 4th, 2021. Applications received after this deadline will not qualify for Summer P-EBT benefits. ODE staff will update P-EBT eligibility in the ODHS OMSB system to issue benefits.

Summer P-EBT is an extension of P-EBT for the 2020-2021 school year. Children starting kindergarten in the fall of 2021 are not eligible for P-EBT summer benefits as school

children. They may be eligible for summer child care benefits if they are under age 6 and are enrolled in SNAP during the summer, or they received P-EBT child care benefits in the last month of the school year and continue to be enrolled in SNAP during the summer.

The Oregon Department of Human Services is responsible for determining eligibility for SNAP, the primary path direct certification is conferred through for free and reduced meals.

To ensure program integrity and accuracy the following evaluation and outcome measurements will be captured to inform future opportunities for efficiencies and program improvements. These outcome measures include:

- ODE will provide the following information in a comprehensive report no later than 30-days following the end of the covered summer period to ODHS:
 - The total number of applications received.
 - The total number of applications approved.
 - The total number of applications denied.

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

The Oregon School Meal Benefit (OSMB) system will support the implementation of Summer P-EBT for children aged 6 years and younger by maintaining SNAP eligibility information.

Children aged 0-5 years old are eligible for the full summer P-EBT benefits if they are part of an active SNAP household at any time during the summer covered period.

Children aged 6 years old are eligible for summer P-EBT benefits if they are both part of an active SNAP household at any time during the summer covered period as well as were enrolled in a covered child care facility in the last month of the school year. For purposes of summer P-EBT, Oregon is making the simplified assumption that that these children remain enrolled in child care during the summer even after they reach age 6.

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>

Oregon will use the summer covered period of 57 days as supported in section 3B. The summer P-EBT benefit calculation will be:

$$57 \text{ days} \times \$6.82 \text{ per day} = \$389.00 \text{ (rounded up from } \$388.74)$$

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: _____