

**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
Title of Document:	Amendment to Approved State Plan for Pandemic EBT: Children in School and/or Child Care, Summer 2022
Document ID:	
Z-RIN:	
Date of Issuance:	May 9, 2022
Replaces:	N/A
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:** Georgia
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.")

- \$465,290,000
 - Estimated amount issued to school children
 - \$361,675,000 = (925,000 school children x \$391 Standard Benefit)
 - Estimated amount issued to non-school children in child care
 - \$103,615,000 = (265,000 child care x \$391 Standard Benefit)

δ. Estimated total number of children to which the state will issue P-EBT benefits.

- 1,190,000

δι. Estimated number of school children

- 925,000
- This total estimate also includes private schools that participated in the NSLP during the 2021-2022 school year. According to the information provided by the Georgia Department of Education to the Georgia Department of Human Services eligible non-traditional schools including the following:
 - Atlanta Neighborhood Charter School
 - 7 Pillars Academy
 - Atlanta Classical Academy
 - Broken Shackle Ranch Inc
 - Bright Futures Academy
 - Amana Academy, Inc.
 - Cristo Rey Atlanta Jesuit High School
 - DeKalb Academy of Technology and Environment
 - Latin College Prep

- Latin Grammar School
- Brighten Academy Inc
- Chattahoochee Hills Charter School
- Creative Learning Center
- DeKalb Preparatory Academy Inc
- Deveraux Foundation
- The Savannah Classical Academy Inc
- Department of Juvenile Justice
- Fort Benning Schools
- Fort Stewart Schools
- International Community School
- Leadership Preparatory Academy
- KIPP Metro Atlanta Collaborative Inc
- Kidspace National Centers of Georgia, Inc
- Murphy Harpst Children’s Center
- New Life Academy of Excellence
- Museum School of Avondale Estates
- St. Peter Claver School
- Tapestry Charter School
- The Globe Academy
- The Main Street Academy
- Twin Cedars Youth and Family Services
- Youth Villages
- Youth Challenge Academy Foundation
- Georgia Magnet Charter School Foundation
- DeKalb Path Academy
- Westside Atlanta Charter School
- Hillside Inc
- SOAR Academy
- Tippens Educational Center
- Winston Dowdell Academy
- International Student Center
- Effingham College and Career Academy
- Gateway Academy
- Academy for Advanced Studies
- Empower College and Career Center
- Rockdale Career Academy
- Alpha Academy
- Valdosta Early College Academy
- Maceo A Home Jr. Learning Center

In addition, Georgia has state schools which are a group of three schools specifically serving students who are blind or deaf (Georgia School for the Blind; Atlanta Area School for the Deaf; and Georgia School for the Deaf). These schools are under the direct oversight of the State Board of Education and supported by the Georgia Department of Education. They are public K-12 schools and participate in NSLP.

- Estimated number of non-school children in child care
265,000
- 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
 - See proposed issuance chart below
 - 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.
 - See proposed issuance chart below

Issuance Cycle:

Issuance Type	Summer P-EBT	Issuance Dates
School Children	Benefits Issued for:	Staggered Issuance
School Districts	Summer Months (Standard 55 Days)	December 2022

Issuance Type	Summer P-EBT	Issuance Dates
Child Care	Benefits Issued for:	Staggered Issuance
Covered Child Care Facilities	Summer Months (Standard 55 Days)	December 2022

Issuance Type	Summer P-EBT	Issuance Dates
Review Discrepancies	Benefits Issued for:	Staggered Issuance
School Children and Covered Child Care Facilities	Summer Months (Standard 55 Days)	January 2023

The issuance cycle is scheduled for December as the state is working through receiving, finalizing, preparing, testing and confirming the issuance files for payment in December and want to ensure errors and adequate testing are completed prior to issuance of payments.

- 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.
 - The state did not issue P-EBT benefits to school children for SY 21-22
 - However, the state issued P-EBT benefits to children in child care for SY 21-22.

- Received the file from GaDOE. School enrollment and FRL data from GaDOE.
- 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 benefited 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 state did not issue P-EBT benefits to school children for SY 21-22; however, for Summer P-EBT, 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 by using the data file provided by GaDOE to DHS for the students that were eligible for free or reduced priced meals during the last month of school in May 2022 which will deem them eligible for Summer P-EBT.
 - GaDOE will not rely on free and reduced priced eligibility lists from SY 20-21 to determine eligibility for Summer P-EBT 2022. Georgia schools reset free and reduced price eligibility for all students at the start of SY 21-22. GaDOE can share this data with DHS for Summer P-EBT eligibility to be determined for school children based on the current school year.
 - High school students that graduated in May 2022 and were eligible for free or reduced priced meals in May 2022, will be eligible for Summer P-EBT and included in the data file sent by GaDOE.
 - High school students that graduated in May 2022 and were not eligible for free or reduced priced meals in May 2022, will not qualify to complete a new NSLP application for free or reduced priced meals; therefore, they will not be eligible for Summer P-EBT.
 - DHS has partnered with the Georgia Data Analytics Center (GDAC) which will match the data file received from GaDOE to ensure eligible school children are issued Summer P-EBT.
 - For private and non-traditional schools that appear on prior pages 3-4 and provide data files on eligible school children for issuance of P-EBT, benefits will be administered in the same manner as described above for GaDOE eligible school children and they are considered a general participating school. For clarification, these schools and institutions must only provide the names of children who are certified eligible for free or reduced price meals under normal NSLP rules. Serving all meals for free under the SSO (as most NSLP schools did last school year) does not make these children eligible for P-EBT summer benefits.
 - For private and non-traditional schools that appear on prior pages 3-4 and do not provide data files on eligible school children for issuance of P-EBT they will not be considered a general participating school for this summer P-EBT benefit. Individual student appeals will work as follows:

1. *The school must also appear on the list as a participating school on pages 3-4 and that the child was enrolled in the school in SY 21-22, and that the child was certified for free or reduced price NSLP meals in SY 21-22. For P-EBT appeals, in order for families to appeal and claim the benefit which is as a participating NSLP school as noted by GaDOE and they were certified for free or reduced lunch at the school level, they would be directed to contact their school and have the school confirm the student's eligibility status for free or reduced lunch to DHS. If the school does not appear on the list as a general participating school for P-EBT, families will be redirected to the school to provide verification for individual students, or parents will need to provide DHS with the information validated and confirmed by the school to process the benefits for eligible K-12 students. If this information is not provided on individual students certified eligible for free or reduced lunch at a NSLP school and confirmed by the school to DHS, students will not receive P-EBT benefits.*
 2. *For children who do not attend one of the schools on pages 3 and 4, the state will have to confirm that the school did, in fact, participate in the NSLP in SY 21-22 in addition to confirming the child's enrollment in the school and the child's certification for free or reduced price NSLP meals.*
 3. Benefits issued for appeals under this provision will be paid in January 2023.
- 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).
 - In order to identify children who are determined newly eligible for free or reduced price school meals during the covered summer period, schools will accept NSLP applications during the summer months for families that opt to apply for free or reduced priced meals, during an open enrollment process

- GaDOE will provide data to DHS of school children newly eligible for free or reduced priced meals that apply and submit NSLP applications during the open enrollment period of June 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022, which is the application period for SY 2021-2022. Georgia school districts began receiving NSLP enrollment for SY 2022-2023 on July 1, 2022. GaDOE and DHS will work with districts to identify NSLP applications received between July 1, 2022 and July 31, 2022. The deadline for newly eligible students to be considered for Summer P-EBT will be July 31, 2022.
 - Note: Applications received after school's end classes and begin their summer breaks cannot be used to provide retroactive P-EBT benefits for SY 2021-2022. These applications will be considered for Summer P-EBT only.
- GaDOE sent the SY 21-22 data file to DHS in the beginning of September 2022 and is finalizing the data file for families that applied during the open enrollment period and were determined to be eligible for free or reduced priced meals.
- Children newly certified for free or reduced priced meals during open enrollment will receive the total standard Summer P-EBT amount that the state proposes to issue (\$391 per child), regardless of the date that the child became eligible for free or reduced priced meals. Benefits will not be prorated.

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.
 - DHS proposes the following simplified assumption: Children enrolled in SNAP during the covered summer period who received P-EBT child care benefits in the last month of the school year including 5 year old children who were determined to be eligible for child care P-EBT who turned 6 during the 2021-2022 school year, will continue to be eligible for P-EBT as a child care student throughout the school year; therefore, the child will also be eligible for Summer P-EBT as long as they remain enrolled in SNAP during the summer.
 - The state confirms that the P-EBT summer program is an extension of P-EBT for school year 2021-2022. Children starting kindergarten in the fall of 2022 are not eligible for P-EBT summer benefits as school children. They may, of course, be eligible for summer child care benefits if they began school year 2021-2022 under age 6 and are enrolled in SNAP during the summer.
 - Children born during the Summer P-EBT timeframe will be added to SNAP existing SNAP cases will also be eligible for Summer P-EBT.
 - Children added to existing SNAP cases during the Summer P-EBT timeframe in will also be eligible for Summer P-EBT.

- DHS will run a separate file to identify children eligible for summer child care benefits if they began school year 2021-2022 under age 6 and are enrolled in SNAP during the summer that are added to existing SNAP households during the Summer P-EBT timeframe.
- 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.
 - DHS will identify children eligible for summer child care benefits if they began school year 2021-2022 under age 6 and are enrolled in SNAP through participation files
- 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
 - DHS will run a separate file to identify children five and under turning age six that are added to existing SNAP households during the Summer P-EBT timeframe.

Response: [please use as much space as needed]

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]

Georgia’s simplifying assumptions in child care mirror the approved SY21-22 P-EBT Child Care plan.

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:



Signature
 Commissioner Candice Broce
 Department of Human Services

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Woods". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Richard" and last name "Woods" clearly distinguishable.

Signature
Superintendent Richard Woods
Georgia Department of Education

Date of Request: _____