

Amendment to Approved State Plan for Pandemic EBT

The District of Columbia (District) is requesting to amend its approved Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) plan for School Year 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 as set forth below.

1. Reissue expunged benefits. The District previously set expungement in accordance with 7 CFR §274.2(h). However, because of the nature of the P-EBT program, some cards were mailed to an incorrect address and those households did not receive PEBT benefits they were entitled to. The District continues to receive inquiries from households that were issued benefits but were unable to access them before they were expunged, and while the District continues to issue benefits to households that were not paid previously, households that were paid but could not access benefits before they were expunged have been unable to receive P-EBT benefits. To ensure all students receive benefits to which they are eligible, the District proposes to amend the plan as follows:

SY 20-21 language:

Section 6, number 3 amended to read:

3. The District will systematically expunge P-EBT benefits after 274 or 365 days of account inactivity, depending on issuance date, in accordance with 7 CFR §274.2(i), to ensure funds are released if the household was eligible but decided not to use benefits. However, the District will reissue P-EBT benefits that were expunged in cases where the household requests it or where the District becomes aware the benefits were expunged during normal case review, subject to program termination deadlines. Cases chosen for review will be identified through our dispute resolution process, and only those cases will be evaluated to determine if P-EBT benefits should be reinstated; we will not engage in an extensive or comprehensive review of cases with expunged benefits.

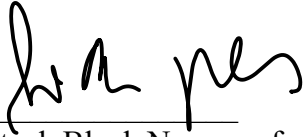
SY19-20 language:

Page 9, third paragraph amended to read:

Non-SNAP households that receive a P-EBT card and choose not to participate will not be forced to participate and can therefore “opt-out” of P-EBT. The District will systematically expunge P-EBT benefits after 274 or 365 days of account inactivity, depending on issuance date, in accordance with 7 CFR §274.2(i), to ensure funds are released if the household was eligible but decided not to use benefits. However, the District will reissue P-EBT benefits that were expunged in cases where the household requests it or where the District becomes aware the benefits were expunged during normal case review, subject to program termination deadlines.

2. Program termination. The District did not previously include a date for ending P-EBT program activities and payments. After almost two years of operations that included call centers and web forms for inquiries and extensive outreach, the District is receiving a weekly average of six web form inquiries and one to two in-person requests for a replacement EBT card on average each week.. The District proposes to cease corrective payments for SY 2019-2020 and SY 2020-2021, on June 1, 2022. The District will continue to reissue EBT cards for PEBT benefits for SY 2021-2022, as requested through web forms or in-person, through August 26, 2022. Households will still be able to call FIS or go to the card center to get a replacement card.

Households that contact the District for all other matters after that date will be directed to request a fair hearing for review.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steph Bloch Newman', written over a horizontal line.

Steph Bloch Newman for Anthea Seymour, Administrator of the Economic Security Administration