

**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
Title of Document:	Amendment to Approved State Plan for Pandemic EBT: Children in School and Child Care, Summer 2021
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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 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
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1. State: Florida

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: N/A

- 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.")

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.

- Estimated amount issued to school children \$821,740,500.00
 - Estimated amount issued to non-school children in child care \$225,843,000.00
- d. Estimated total number of children to which the State will issue P-EBT benefits.
- Estimated number of school children 2,191,308
 - Estimated number of non-school children in child care 602,248
- 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.

Florida is working with the appropriate partners to expediate the proposed timelines below.

- School children: Will issue P-EBT benefits to school children in three issuances over a 30-day period beginning November 15, 2021.
 1. School children who are current SNAP recipients
 2. School children who currently have P-EBT card
 3. School children who need a P-EBT card issued
- Children in child care: Will issue P-EBT benefits to school children in three issuances over a 30-day period beginning November 15, 2021.
 1. Children in child care who are current SNAP recipients
 2. Children in child care who currently have P-EBT card
 3. Children in child care who need a P-EBT card issued

Florida will reach out to the Florida Retailers Association to communicate our rollout plan.

- 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).

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

Response: The summer period that this plan will cover is June 3, 2021 through August 31, 2021. The summer P-EBT plan will continue to follow the same processes outlined in the School Year and Child Care plan regarding EBT issuance, customer service, **dispute resolution**, and the public information campaign.

School-aged Children:

Implementing Summer P-EBT will require the input and cooperation of several state agencies, including the Department of Children and Families (DCF), the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), and the Department of Education (DOE). The following outlines the key players and the processes necessary to identify eligible school-aged children.

Florida will build on the existing processes that identify and record student eligibility for free or reduced-price meals, which includes the Direct Certification process. Currently, DCF provides nightly data on clients newly eligible for SNAP, TANF and Medicaid to FDACS. FDACS also receives enrollment data from local schools/school districts that participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). FDACS compares DCF program eligibility information with the school enrollment data, directly certifies students for free or reduced-price school meals and returns the eligibility information of the matched students to their participating school/school

district. In addition, DOE will collect data from each school district (including charter schools) and private schools that participate in the NSLP, with demographic information for each student eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals in the last month for SY 2020-2021.

Data collected will include:

- Student name
- Student ID number
- Parent/Legal Guardian name
- Mailing address
- School of attendance
- County

Note: Social Security Numbers and the Date of Birth will be collected when available to match to SNAP, TANF, and Medicaid data but is not required for eligibility.

DOE will transmit the data to DCF. DCF will compare eligible clients to SNAP recipient data to identify, where possible, clients with active SNAP payments. Students currently receiving SNAP will receive P-EBT benefits on their existing EBT card. Students not currently receiving SNAP but did previously receive P-EBT benefits during SY 2020-2021, will receive benefits on their existing P-EBT card. Students not currently receiving SNAP or did not receive P-EBT benefits during SY 2020-2021, will be issued a new P-EBT card.

FDACS will provide DOE with a list of schools that were eligible to participate in the NSLP during SY 2020-2021.

As an administrative simplification, Florida assumes that the data provided by FDACS and DOE would capture all eligible school-aged children for Summer P-EBT regardless if they received a P-EBT benefit during the last month of SY 2020-2021.

Due to schools being closed over the summer and/or operating with limited staff, applications for the NSLP may not be processed during the summer months. To identify newly eligible school-aged children for the summer period, any school-aged children eligible through direct certification or submitted an application for NSLP prior to the start of SY 2021-2022 and determined eligible for free or reduced-price meals will be eligible for Summer P-EBT benefits.

This date will vary depending on when each school district began classes for SY 2021-2022. [Florida Public School Calendars - All Districts Start Dates and More | Florida Smart](#)

Children in Child Care:

DCF is responsible for issuing SNAP benefits and will identify children in the eligibility system that are under age 6 and a SNAP recipient during the summer period. As an administrative simplification, P-EBT benefits for the full covered summer period will be issued to children who are eligible for SNAP during the covered summer period.

Florida assumes that children age six and older will receive PEBT benefits through the school children portion of the plan and any child who received the school PEBT benefit is not eligible for

the child care PEBT benefit. The list of SNAP children under age six will be compared to the list of school children eligible for PEBT to ensure duplicate benefits are not issued.

Children in child care currently receiving SNAP will receive P-EBT benefits on their existing card. Children in child care not currently receiving SNAP, will be issued a new P-EBT card.

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>

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:

Maggie Mickler

Signature
Maggie Mickler, Assistant Secretary for Economic Self-Sufficiency
Florida Department of Children and Families

Lakeisha T. Hood

Signature
Lakeisha T. Hood, Director of Food, Nutrition and Wellness
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Date of Request: September 27, 2021