

**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
Document ID:	
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Date of Issuance:	April 26, 2021
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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.

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1. **State:** Arkansas
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: Standard benefit chosen

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-\$104,274,375
 - Estimated amount issued to non-school children in childcare-\$17,710,125
- d. Estimated total number of children to which the State will issue P-EBT benefits.
- Estimated number of school children-278,065 (124,955 SNAP, 153,110 Non-SNAP)
 - Estimated number of non-school children in childcare-47,227
- 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-Approximately 7/21/2021
 - Children in childcare - Approximately 7/21/2021
 - Newly eligible school children or children in childcare will be added to the next available file of recipients as they are discovered through ADE file transfers or caseload data mining by the SNAP agency.
- 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: (Response included in this section)

- Describe how the State will identify school children who received P-EBT benefits during the last month of SY 20-21. **P-EBT eligible students are identified from school enrollment records as of May 31, 2021. These enrollment records include data elements required for eligibility determination and for P-EBT distribution. Children who graduated or stopped attending will not be included in the file from ADE to DHS.**

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. **The district enrollment records indicate all enrolled students, onsite and virtual, as well as meal eligibility status. From the data available May 31, 2021, students with free and reduced priced meal eligibility can be identified for the Summer P-EBT benefit. Applications for meal eligibility must be received by July 30th, 2021 in order to confer eligibility for a Summer P-EBT benefit.**

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). **School districts, who approve students newly eligible for free or reduced meals after May 31 and before 7/30/2021, will complete the approved data collection template and forward to DHS for processing.**

For children in childcare:

- Describe how the State will identify SNAP-enrolled children who received P-EBT childcare benefits in the last month of the school year. **All SNAP children are eligible for the Summer Program because they all meet the income standards for the NSLP and the state has adopted the simplified benefit for all “eligibles”. Children must also be enrolled in SNAP during the summer.**
- 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. All SNAP children are eligible for the Summer Program because they all meet the income standards for the NSLP and the state has adopted the simplified benefit for all “eligibles” and are/were SNAP participating during the countable months.**
- Describe how the State will identify children who are part of a SNAP household who are newly eligible for P-EBT childcare benefits during the covered summer period. **Arkansas DHS will scan for newly eligible children at the end of each summer month for the following month. Arkansas DHS will scan for newly eligible children at the end of May at the end of June for and at the end of July for the Summer benefit.**

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. The Summer plan mirrors the School Plan in matter related to EBT issuance, public information and outreach, dispute resolution and other areas of administration. In general, conditions related to benefit issuance reporting, administrative funding, and release of information remain in effect for the covered summer period as well. 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
Mary Franklin, Division Director
Arkansas Department of Human Service

Signature
Suzanne Davidson, CNU Director
Arkansas Department of Education

Date of Request: _____