

**Amendment to Approved State Plan for Pandemic EBT  
Children in School and/or Child Care, Summer 2021**

<b>Issuing Agency/Office:</b>	FNS / Child Nutrition Programs, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
<b>Title of Document:</b>	Amendment to Approved State Plan for Pandemic EBT: Children in School and Child Care, Summer 2021
<b>Document ID:</b>	
<b>Z-RIN:</b>	
<b>Date of Issuance:</b>	April 26, 2021
<b>Replaces:</b>	N/A
<b>Summary:</b>	(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)
<b>Disclaimer:</b>	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.ozs.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 final JC package.*

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1. **State:** Nebraska \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

2. **Primary Citation:** Families First Coronavirns 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 benefit<sup>1</sup>, simply check the box below. Next, go to the letter 'c' (*Estimated total amount of P-EBT benefits*) of the template.

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*By checking this box, we are indicating that our State will use the US standard benefit for the covered summer period.*

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- 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:** Nebraska has elected to use the standard benefit amount for the covered summer period. Responses are included after each question below.

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<sup>1</sup> 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. The 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: \$56,250,000
  - Estimated amount issued to non-school children in child care: \$10,295,250
- d. Estimated total number of children to which the State will issue P-EBT benefits.
- Estimated number of school children: 150,000
  - Estimated number of non-school children in child care: 27,454
- 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: Children provided as eligible to NDE by June 30 will be issued benefits on September 8. Children provided as newly eligible to NDE during the summer period (**May 31 – August 13**) by August 31 will be issued benefits on October 6. Benefits will be issued to existing P-EBT cards for families that received benefits during the school year. New P-EBT cards will be issued for families that have not previously received benefits. **Newly eligible school children are those children determined eligible based on applications submitted to the school on or before August 13.**
  - Children in child care: Benefits for children in child care will be issued on September 10. Children determined newly eligible during the summer period will be issued benefits on October 8. Benefits will be issued to existing SNAP EBT cards for children in child care.
- 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. This will be known based on P-EBT issuances completed for school children. School districts are reporting eligible students to NDE and NDE provides data to DHHS for issuance.

- 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. **NDE will work with each school district to provide a file with their eligible students for the last month of the school year. This does not include children who dropped out of school or graduated before the end of the school year.** The portal used by the schools to submit data for the school year has been modified to accept summer data submissions. NDE will provide communication to school districts with instructions on how and when to **submit data. Children who are newly entering kindergarten in the school year 2021 - 2022, are not eligible to receive summer P-EBT benefits as school children but may qualify under the child care component.**
- 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). Nebraska has determined the summer period will be May 31, 2021, through August 13, 2021. Schools will accept applications throughout the summer and schools will be encouraged to maintain staffing to process applications; however, Nebraska anticipates applications will be accepted but not processed until August. Once applications are processed, the data for newly eligible students will be provided to NDE through the secure portal.

**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. This will be known based on the issuance of P-EBT for May. This list will be used to help determine summer P-EBT benefits.
- 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. Nebraska will use the SNAP eligibility system, NFOCUS, to determine eligible SNAP-enrolled children in May 2021.

- 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. Nebraska will use the SNAP eligibility system, NFOCUS, to determine newly eligible SNAP-enrolled children during our application period of May 31 - August 13.

#### 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
<b>Contiguous U.S.</b>	55	\$6.82	<b>\$375</b>
<b>Alaska</b>	55	<b>10.99</b>	<b>604</b>
<b>Hawaii, Guam, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico</b>	55	<b>7.97</b>	<b>438</b>

##### 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			Daily Total
	Lunch	Breakfast	Snack	
<b>Contiguous U.S.</b>	\$3.60	\$2.26	\$0.96	<b>\$6.82</b>
<b>Alaska</b>	5.79	3.64	1.56	<b>10.99</b>
<b>Hawaii, Guam, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico</b>	4.20	2.64	1.13	<b>7.97</b>

**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, including 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:**

*Kayte Partch*

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Signature

Kayte Partch, Director of Nebraska Child Nutrition Programs

*Stephanie Beasley*

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Signature

Stephanie Beasley, Director of Children and Family Services

Date of Request: June 30, 2021