

**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 childcare 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.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:** Pennsylvania

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 benefit<sup>1</sup>, 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.

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
- Estimated amount issued to non-school children in childcare

d. Estimated total number of children to which the State will issue P-EBT benefits.

- Estimated number of school children
- Estimated number of non-school children in childcare

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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.

- 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 in childcare
- f. Describe how the State will identify eligible school children and children in childcare 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 childcare:**

- Describe how the State will identify SNAP-enrolled children who received P-EBT childcare 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 childcare benefits during the covered summer period

**Response:** [please use as much space as needed]

c. Estimated Total Amount of P-EBT

P-EBT for school-aged children	P-EBT for children in childcare
\$372,318,750	\$84,585,375

d. Estimated Total P-EBT Children

P-EBT for school-aged children	P-EBT for children in childcare
992,850	225,561

e. P-EBT issuance schedule

- P-EBT for school children already known to DHS and PDE via the Stage 3 data collection completed in July 2021 will be issued over 10 business days beginning September 13, 2021 and ending on September 24, 2021. The issuance will be for the full \$375 to cover the entire summer.
- P-EBT for school children who are newly eligible for the National School Lunch Program will be issued on October 8, 2021. As this population is anticipated to be less than 100,000 students, Pennsylvania does not anticipate the need to send multiple files over multiple days.
- P-EBT for childcare children will be issued in two issuances. The first issuance will be spread over two business days beginning September 27, 2021 and ending on September 28, 2021. The second issuance will be a cleanup issuance that will be issued on October 15 to capture any children missed in the initial issuance.

f. Identifying Eligible Children for School-Aged P-EBT

- Pennsylvania retains a list of all children submitted by the schools for P-EBT as a part of the 2020-2021 school year, which includes whether the student is in Free, Paid, or Reduced-Price meal status and what instructional model the student was in for each month from September through May. Pennsylvania will use this list to identify all children that received a benefit for May 2021 because they were listed as Free or Reduced and in a Virtual or Blended instructional model. These children will be issued Summer P-EBT.
- Pennsylvania will use the same input list referenced in sub-bullet point a. to identify all children listed as Free or Reduced that were still enrolled at some point in May 2021. These children will be issued Summer P-EBT.

- c. Schools will continue to take applications and determine eligibility for free and reduced-price meals during the summer months. Because the final data collection for the 2020-2021 school year is being collected on July 2, 2021, students who became eligible in June 2021 will already be identified. A new data collection of children who were enrolled during the 2020-2021 school year and became eligible for Free or Reduced-Price meals after the school submitted its final data collection file for the 2020-2021 school year P-EBT will be completed during the first three weeks of September with a submission due date of September 24, 2021. This list will then be cross-checked against the final submission for the school year to ensure any duplicate entries who were already eligible are identified and removed.
  - d. Any benefits issued under sub-bullet point a. will be issued to the EBT or P-EBT card to which Stage 3 benefits were issued. Any benefits issued under sub-bullet point b. or c. will be issued to the EBT card, if the child is actively receiving SNAP or TANF and the school has provided enough information for DHS to confidently issue benefits to the EBT card or to a P-EBT card if the child is not active for SNAP or TANF or the school did not provide enough information to confidently match to a SNAP or TANF case.
- g. Identifying Eligible Children for Childcare-Aged P-EBT
- a. Pennsylvania retains the list of eligible children pulled from its Data Warehouse for P-EBT. Pennsylvania will use this list to identify any eligible children, age 5 and younger, that were still an eligible member in a SNAP case during May 2021.
  - b. Pennsylvania will use the same list referenced in sub-bullet point a. to identify children residing in a county that was classified as In-Person during May 2021 and ensure they are also issued Summer P-EBT benefits.
  - c. In September, Pennsylvania will pull a new list of children, age 5 and younger, that were eligible for SNAP benefits during June, July, or August 2021. This list will be cross-checked against the list referenced in sub-bullet points a. and b. to remove duplicate entries to ensure each child receives only one P-EBT benefit for the summer.
  - d. The final list of eligible childcare aged children will be cross checked against the final list of eligible school-aged children to ensure no duplication occurs between the two distinct age groups. If a child is on both lists, the child will receive benefits under the school-aged children procedures.
  - e. A subsequent list of children, age 5 and younger, that were eligible for SNAP during August 2021 but who were authorized after the initial list was determined will be pulled in October.
  - f. Any benefits issued to children eligible under the childcare P-EBT will be issued to the SNAP household's 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:**

**Inez Titus**

Digitally signed by Inez Titus  
Date: 2021.07.19 11:56:32 -04'00'

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Inez Titus  
Deputy Secretary, Office of Income Maintenance  
Department of Human Services

*Danielle Mariano*

7/19/2021

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Danielle Mariano  
Deputy Secretary, Office of Administration  
Pennsylvania Department of Education

**Date of Request:** \_\_\_\_\_