

**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.

**Amendment to Approved State Plan for Pandemic EBT
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1. **State:** South Carolina _____
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.*

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>By checking this box, we are indicating that our State will use the U.S. standard benefit for the covered summer period.</i>

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.

State Response: South Carolina will adopt the U.S. standard benefit of \$375 for 55 days. South Carolina's Summer Child Care P-EBT plan will mirror our State's K-12 School Year plan on issues related to EBT/issuance, public information campaign, dispute resolution, serving marginalized communities, and other requirements.

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:
Please refer to SC's previously approved Summer P-EBT State Plan.
- Estimated amount issued to non-school children in child care: **\$44,013,000**

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

- Estimated number of school children:
Please refer to SC's previously approved Summer P-EBT State Plan.

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 number of non-school children in child care: **117,368**

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:

Please refer to SC's previously approved Summer P-EBT State Plan.

Children in child care:

Upon approval of South Carolina's Child Care P-EBT plan, the State plans to issue P-EBT Summer (Child Care) benefits retroactively in a single issuance cycle. The tentative issuance date for the summer child care P-EBT benefits is September 20, 2021.

f. *Describe how the State will identify eligible school children and children in child care for summer P-EBT.*

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.

Please refer to SC's previously approved Summer P-EBT State Plan.

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.

Please refer to SC's previously approved Summer P-EBT State Plan.

*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).*

Please refer to SC's previously approved Summer P-EBT State Plan.

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.

South Carolina will identify SNAP-enrolled children age 0-5 who received P-EBT child care benefits in the last month of the school year by utilizing the P-EBT Benefits Portal which was designed to specifically maintain issuance records for P-EBT. Children who have previously received Child Care P-EBT may receive summer P-EBT if their SNAP enrollment continues during the summer period. Children whose SNAP enrollment begins or ends during the summer period can receive the full summer benefit. South Carolina will ensure that all non-school child care P-EBT recipients are identified/distinguished for accurate reporting and issuance purposes. South Carolina's Summer P-EBT program for Child Care will begin June 12, 2021 and end August 16, 2021.

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.

South Carolina will identify all SNAP-enrolled children age 0-5, who did not receive P-EBT for the benefit month of May 2021 due to the school learning mode by utilizing both the State's Client History Information Program (SNAP eligibility system) and the P-EBT Benefits Portal to ensure all qualified non-school aged children receive Summer P-EBT regardless of school learning mode.

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.

South Carolina will utilize the state's SNAP eligibility system, Client History Information Profile (CHIP), to identify newly eligible children participating in a SNAP household during the covered summer period. This data will be cross-referenced against the State's P-EBT Benefits Portal to ensure no previous benefits have been issued and to lower the risk of improper P-EBT payments.

4. Benefit Levels

South Carolina will adopt the U.S. standard benefit of \$6.82 per day for 55 days, totaling \$375 for each eligible student and child.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. Signatures and Titles of Requesting SNAP Agency Official:



Signature
Amber Gillum, Deputy State Director, Economic Services
South Carolina Department of Social Services

9. Date of Request: July 26, 2021