

**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:	
Z-RIN:	
Date of Issuance:	April 26, 2021
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:** 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.*

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.

State Response: South Carolina will adopt the U.S. standard benefit of \$375 for 55 days.

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: **\$162,460,875**
- Estimated amount issued to non-school children in child care:
South Carolina will amend the current Summer P-EBT State Plan for issuance of Child Care Summer P-EBT benefits after our State P-EBT Child Care Plan has been approved.

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

- Estimated number of school children: **433,229**
- Estimated number of non-school children in child care:
South Carolina will amend the current Summer P-EBT State Plan for issuance of Child Care Summer P-EBT benefits after our State P-EBT Child Care Plan has been approved.

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.

- 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:

South Carolina’s final issuance cycle for the 2020-2021 school year is tentatively scheduled for July 20-26, 2021. The State plans to issue P-EBT Summer benefits retroactively in a maximum of two issuance cycles. Issuance cycles will be as follows:

Benefit Months	Tentative Issuance Date(s)
June 2021 – July 2021	August 1, 2021 and August 15, 2021
August 2021	September 30, 2021

Children in child care:

South Carolina will amend this plan to include issuance of Child Care Summer P-EBT benefits once the State P-EBT Child Care Plan for the 2020-21 school year has been approved.

- 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.

The state will identify all students that are approved for free or reduced-price meals or attending a CEP school based on the eligibility data produced for the May 2021 - June 2021 P-EBT issuance (for SY 2020-2021). All students who are included in the P-EBT Benefits Portal for the May-June issuance will be coded as eligible for summer P-EBT. The P-EBT Summer Program is an extension of the P-EBT School program for the school year 2020-2021. Therefore, students starting kindergarten in the Fall of 2021, as a new student, are not eligible for Summer P-EBT benefits.

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.

All students that are approved for free/reduced meals or attending a CEP school are submitted by the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) to DSS for P-EBT issuance, regardless of attendance model. To determine P-EBT eligibility, SCDE will utilize its web-based student information system, PowerSchool. The PowerSchool data submitted to DSS from SCDE will include all students who were enrolled in a South Carolina school and either received P-EBT benefits in the last month of the 2020-21 school year or was eligible to receive P-EBT benefits but did not because they attended school in-person.

*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 students identified as newly eligible (i.e., those who submit Free and Reduced-Price Meal Program applications after **June 12, 2021 but prior to August 16, 2021**) will be paid retroactively during the September 2021 issuance cycle. PowerSchool, SCDE's web-based student information system, and nutrition software is shut down at various times over the summer to prepare for the start of the new school year. SCDE cannot pull accurate data for students during this time. All School Food Authorities have been instructed to continue accepting meal applications throughout the summer months. Free and Reduced-Price Meal Program applications received between **July 1, 2021 and August 16, 2021** will be processed as they are received but will not be reported to SCDE in PowerSchool until the start of the 2021-22 school year. Free and Reduced-Price Meal Program applications received after **June 12, 2021 but prior to August 16, 2021** will not qualify students for retroactive P-EBT benefits for the school year 2020-2021.

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 amend the current Summer P-EBT State Plan for issuance of Child Care Summer P-EBT benefits after our State P-EBT Child Care Plan has been approved.

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 amend the current Summer P-EBT State Plan for issuance of Child Care Summer P-EBT benefits after our State P-EBT Child Care Plan has been approved.

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 amend the current Summer P-EBT State Plan for issuance of Child Care Summer P-EBT benefits after our State P-EBT Child Care Plan has been approved.

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

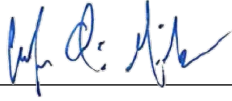
In general, conditions related to benefit issuance reporting, administrative funding, and release of information remain in effect for the covered summer period. If the State wishes to change any of the terms of its plan, the State shall first notify USDA and will, if requested by USDA, submit a plan amendment for USDA review and approval.

South Carolina intends to mirror our approved School (K-12) P-EBT State Plan. Therefore, the State will administer Summer P-EBT benefits according to the terms of its approved 2020-2021 school year State plan.

7. Reminder

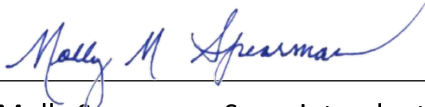
If the State needs to make any significant changes to its Summer 2021 plan after approval, the State needs to submit an amendment to FNS that describes the change and its impact on operating summer P-EBT. USDA will review the amendment and approve allowable amendments.

8. Signatures and Titles of Requesting SNAP and Child Nutrition State Agency Officials:



7/7/2021

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



7 July 2021

Molly Spearman, Superintendent of Education
South Carolina Department of Education

9. Date of Request: July 7, 2021