

**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.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 Dakota
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.

<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>
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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:** [please use as much space as needed]

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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. 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: \$21,937,500
  - Estimated amount issued to non-school children in childcare: \$7,680,000
- d. Estimated total number of children to which the State will issue P-EBT benefits.
- Estimated number of school children: 58,500
  - Estimated number of non-school children in childcare: 20,480
- 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: September 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Children in childcare: September 15<sup>th</sup>
- 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.
- 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 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.
- 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 child care benefits during the covered summer period

**Response:**

South Dakota will utilize the 2020-2021 school year P-EBT plan and childcare P-EBT plan as a bases for the Summer P-EBT Plan. The Summer P-EBT plan mirrors the 2020-2021 school year plan and childcare plan in most respects, such as EBT cards, benefit issuance, public information campaign, dispute resolution, serving marginalized communities, customer service, and so on.

**For School-Aged Children**

Bullet 1 – The South Dakota Department of Education (DOE) provided a file to the South Dakota Department of Social Services (DSS) with the students who met the qualifications of the SY 20-21 P-EBT program for each month of the school year based on the instructional method being utilized throughout the school year. Utilizing this information, we already know the students who were eligible for P-EBT benefits during the last month of SY 20-21.

Bullet 2 – For the SY 20-21 P-EBT Program, the DOE has already identified all children who were eligible for free or reduced-price meals at the end of SY 20-21 in all public and non-public schools in the state. This includes all eligible students who graduated at the end of SY 20/21. DOE utilized data provided by the school districts (any household free and reduced applications received during the 20/21 school year), CEP and Provisional files, Direct Certification files, and files for our foster, migrant and homeless students to make sure every eligible student was included. The DOE also collected the mode of instruction from each public and non-public school district in the state by utilizing a Year End Survey so we know which districts were operating in person and those who were operating in a hybrid or remote delivery method.

Bullet 3 – The DOE will direct district staff to process all F/R applications received since school ended for the 20/21 school year. Our direction to the districts will be to enter the applicable data for all students found eligible for F/R lunch into our statewide Student Information System. The DOE will establish a deadline of 8/27/21 for households to submit applications to their local school district for F/R lunch for the 2020/21 school year. The DOE will then extract

all students found newly eligible during Summer 2021 from our Student Information System on 8/31/21 and provide this information to DSS so that they can issue Summer P-EBT benefits retroactively for those newly eligible students in addition to the students who were eligible for F/R lunch during the 20/21 school year.

**For Children in Childcare**

The SD Department of Social Services will utilize our information technology staff to identify all SNAP-eligible children who received P-EBT benefits for childcare in the month of May 2021, and remained enrolled during some part of the covered summer period, through the eligibility and benefit files stored for childcare P-EBT. In addition, our information technology staff will also identify SNAP-eligible children who would have received P-EBT childcare benefits in May 2021, and remained enrolled during some part of the covered summer period, but did not receive benefits because their childcare facility was not closed or operating at reduced attendance or hours in that month, and neither their childcare 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 Dakota will confirm eligibility for SNAP benefits through our SNAP eligibility system. These children will be eligible for Summer P-EBT. The summer P-EBT benefit will be issued to the SNAP household’s already existing EBT account.

The SD Department of Social Service will identify newly eligible SNAP children under the age of six during the covered summer period on a monthly basis. South Dakota will confirm eligibility for newly added SNAP children on a monthly basis through our SNAP eligibility system (ACCESS). The newly eligible children will be matched against the initial Summer P-EBT eligibility file and excluded if the child already received summer P-EBT benefits. If not excluded, the full summer P-EBT benefit will be issued to the SNAP household’s existing EBT account.

**4. Benefit Levels**

**A. U.S. standard Benefit**

South Dakota will utilize the 2021 standard benefit amount of \$375 per eligible child for the covered summer period.

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	<b>\$375</b>
Alaska	55	10.99	<b>604</b>
Hawaii, Guam, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico	55	7.97	<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, 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.

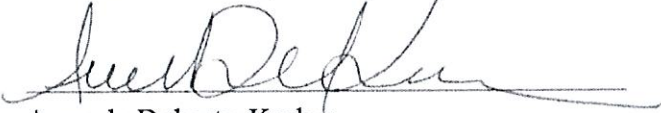
**Reminder**

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:**



Cody Stoesser  
Director of Finance, SD Department of Education



Amanda Doherty-Karber  
SNAP Administrator, SD Department of Social Services

**Date of Request:** 8/27/2021