

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

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| <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>      | July 2, 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  
Children in School and/or Child Care, Summer 2021**

1. **State:** State of New Mexico
2. **Primary Citation:** Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) as amended by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
3. **Here is 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.

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| <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.")

The estimated total amount of P-EBT benefits NM will issue is in the summer of 2021 based on the USDA calculation (55 summer days @ \$6.82=\$375) is **\$137,455,125**.

- a. Estimated amount issued to school children in SNAP Households is (\$375 x 128,003 student) ***\$48,001,125***
  - b. Estimated amount issued to school children in non-SNAP households is (\$375 x 118,544 students) ***\$44,454,000***
  - c. Estimated amount issued to school aged children that submit an application in non-SNAP Household is (\$375 x 20,000 student) ***\$7,500,000***.
  - d. Estimated amount issued to eligible children ages 0-5 in SNAP households is (\$375 x 100,000 students) ***\$37,500,000***.
- d. Estimated total number of children to which the State will issue P-EBT benefits is **366,547**.
- a. Estimated number of school children in SNAP households is ***128,003***.
  - b. Estimated number of school children in non-SNAP households is ***118,544***.
  - c. Estimated total number of additional applications submitted by the end of School Year is ***20,000***.
  - d. Estimated number of children ages 0-5 in SNAP households is ***100,000***.
- 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- Estimated Timeframe: August, 2021
  - Children aged 0-5- TBD
- 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.

The New Mexico Public Education Department (NM PED) has reporting period that is call the End of Year (EOY) Snapshot where all districts or schools report their data as of the last day of school. In this reporting period the districts and schools report all free and reduced students that qualify as of the last reporting date of the year. This is inclusive of all applications submitted new by the school or district until the last day of school.

- 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.

The student data reported to the NM PED is inclusive of all students that are qualified for free and reduced meals. The data is inclusive of free and reduced students that were in any type of learning (Remote, Hybrid, or Face-to-Face).

- 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).

The districts and schools will accept applications during the summer and will not certify the students for free and reduced until the next school year starts. The deadline for parents to submit meal applications to their School Food Authority for the SY 20-21 Summer P-EBT benefits is on July 15, 2021. The submission of school meal applications after this deadline will not qualify their children for summer P-EBT benefits. New Mexico School Food Authorities (SFA's) have voiced their concern on having minimal staff available during the summer months to certify and validate any applications for P-EBT. The SFA's will submit a student file to the PED of the students that were certified free and reduced prior to the end of summer. All new students inclusive of newly registered kindergarten for SY 21-22 will not be entered into the summer data set that the NM PED and the NMHSD will be using to issue Summer P-EBT. The End of Year (EOY) snapshot is inclusive of all enrolled students at the School Food Authority as of the last day of school. The NM PED has also excluded the students who graduated early and dropped out of school before the last day of the school year. The PED will then work with HSD to retroactively to issue the summer benefits.

**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 childcare benefits in the last month of the school year 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.
- 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:** The NMHSD is awaiting approval on their proposed plan for issuing P-EBT to children ages 0-5. Once approved, the NMHSD will follow the approved plan to address the three items listed above.

**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>                           | <b>55</b>   | <b>\$6.82</b>    | <b>\$375</b>     |
| <b>Alaska</b>                                    | 55  | 10.99            | <b>604</b>       |
| <b>Hawaii, Guam, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico</b> | 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:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature  
Karmela Martinez  
Income Support Division Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature  
Print Name and Title

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