



Food and Nutrition
Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
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July 14, 2021

**SUBJECT: Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer Program (P-EBT)
Approval of Vermont's State Plan Amendment**

**TO: Lizbeth Silbermann
Regional Administrator
Northeast Regional Office**

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127) (the Act) authorized a temporary assistance program for households with children affected by school closures during the public health emergency declared on January 27, 2020. Pursuant to the authority granted under Section 1101 of the Act, FNS approved Vermont's plan to operate P-EBT for school year 2020-2021 on January 15, 2021. FNS approved Vermont's plan to operate P-EBT for children in child care for October 2020 through June 2021 on April 9, 2021.

Vermont proposes to amend its approved P-EBT plans to adjust the methodology for determining hybrid benefit levels. For the months of September through February, Vermont determined the hybrid benefit level for schools and child care using the most common hybrid schedule used by schools. Due to the increase in the variety of school schedules, Vermont proposes to determine the hybrid benefit level for the months of March through June based on a weighted average of number of virtual days in the hybrid schedules used by schools.

Vermont has identified:

- In March, schools operating hybrid schedules had an average of 5.6 virtual days per month. Children with hybrid schedules under Vermont's schools plan, and all children covered under Vermont's child care plan in March will receive a benefit of \$38.19.
- In April, schools operating hybrid schedules had an average of 5.5 virtual days per month. Children with hybrid schedules under Vermont's schools plan, and all children covered under Vermont's child care plan in April will receive a benefit of \$37.51.
- In May, schools operating hybrid schedules had an average of 4.9 virtual days per month. Children with hybrid schedules under Vermont's schools plan, and all children covered under Vermont's child care plan in May will receive a benefit of \$33.42.
- In June, schools operating hybrid schedules had an average of 4.5 virtual days per month. Children with hybrid schedules under Vermont's schools plan, and all children covered under Vermont's child care plan in June will receive a benefit of \$30.69.

FNS approves Vermont's plan amendment. Under Vermont's originally approved plans, Vermont estimated the State would issue \$34.4 million in P-EBT benefits to approximately 39,000 school children and \$4.7 million in P-EBT benefits to approximately 7,000 SNAP enrolled children in child care. Based on the change in methodology for calculating hybrid benefit amounts and the availability of additional data, Vermont now estimates that it will issue \$20.5 million in P-EBT benefits to approximately 38,000 school children and \$3.6 million in P-EBT benefits to approximately 7,000 SNAP enrolled children in child care.

The State agency must notify the FNS Regional Office immediately if it is preparing to issue an amount different than the estimate in this plan.

FNS reminds Vermont of the importance of accurate reporting of P-EBT benefits on forms FNS-292B, FNS-46, and FNS-388. Please refer to FNS's [April 27 memo on P-EBT reporting](#), and do not hesitate to contact your Regional Office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Cindy Long
Deputy Administrator
Child Nutrition Programs