

**Amendment to Approved State Plan for Pandemic EBT
Children in School and/or Child Care, Summer 2022**

Issuing Agency/Office:	FNS / Child Nutrition Programs, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
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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 2022. (2) This document relates to Section 1101 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)

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, expiration 11/30/2023.

**Amendment to Approved State Plan for Pandemic EBT
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1. State: West Virginia

2. Primary Citation: Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) as amended by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2022

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. We understand that USDA is only able to offer an interim standard benefit for children in childcare at this time; USDA will provide states with additional guidance in mid to late June 2022 / early July that specifies the remaining amount of the USDA standard benefit for children in childcare commensurate with the expiration date of the public health emergency.

- 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 2022 calendars of an enrollment-weighted average, or the median, of a representative sample of its school districts.
- For the childcare portion of the plan, USDA can only guarantee benefits through July 9. USDA considers this to be 1/2 through the typical State's covered summer period. For purposes of calculating an interim summer P-EBT benefit for children in childcare, States may apply this 1/2 fraction to the full summer benefit that the State has calculated for school children.

¹ The U.S. standard benefit – as defined in Question #5 of FNS' Summer 2022 P-EBT Q&As – is equal to the median number of weekdays in a sample of each State's largest 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 \$391 per eligible child (55 days at \$7.10 per day). The U.S. standard benefit is higher for Alaska, Hawaii, and the territories; see Q/A #15 for a complete set of standard benefit amounts.

- If the State believes that this date is more or less than 1/2 through the typical summer period of the State’s schools, please support your position with data on the most common start dates of the summer break in the State’s schools.
- As discussed in item #16 of USDA’s P-EBT Summer 2022 Q&As, USDA will provide states with additional guidance by mid to late June / early July that specifies the remaining fraction of the full USDA standard benefit that States may provide to children in childcare.

Response: N/A

- 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: **\$86,020,000**
 - Estimated amount issued to non-school children in childcare: **\$13,794,480**
- d. Estimated total number of children to which the State will issue P-EBT benefits.
 - Estimated number of school children: **220,000**
 - Estimated number of non-school children in childcare: **35,280**
- 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: **8/22/2022**
 - Children in childcare **8/22/2022**
 - Please provide tentative issuance dates for the interim benefit for children in childcare, and for any remaining amount that States will be able to issue following the release of additional guidance from USDA in mid to late June / early July.

Response:

West Virginia appreciates FNS’ concern regarding staggered issuance, but with an already overburdened eligibility and infrastructure system this is not a feasible option. A single Summer issuance will allow the state to focus on accurate benefit issuance, reporting and other pandemic related measures the state continues to operate.

The state operates an integrated eligibility system; our SNAP system team is also responsible for system changes/administration for TANF, Medicaid, LIEAP, and other special programs. All these programs have undergone major changes due to pandemic response. The state strongly feels doing a one-off issuance will ensure children receive the benefit in a timely and accurate manner and reporting to USDA is prompt and correct. The state also strongly feels a single issuance would be easier to communicate to both families and EBT retailers. A single issuance would also guarantee West Virginia issues Summer P-EBT benefits to children during the covered Summer period.

West Virginia will communicate the single issuance with our retailer community, school system and SNAP agency so that all business and families may prepare for P-EBT Summer issuance. Each eligible child will receive an eligibility letter explaining the extension of P-EBT Summer, the amount of the benefit, rights and responsibilities of the household and important general information.

- 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 21-22.

The P-EBT Program will continue to be led jointly between the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) and West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR). WVDE is the state agency responsible for the administration of the National School Lunch Program NSLP (in both private and public schools) and the oversight of public education in West Virginia. WVDE operates a statewide educational information system (WVEIS) and a statewide student eligibility system (PrimerEdge). Both systems utilize data that is provided and owned by county level boards of education

Within WVDE, the Office of Child Nutrition, the Office of Data Management and Information Systems, and the West Virginia Education Information System Office provide ongoing training to county boards of education about program eligibility, and the processes and procedures for ensuring county level enrollment data is accurate. WVDE will be the agency responsible for providing and confirming the following data elements: Individual Student Eligibility: WVDE's PrimeroEdge captures student eligibility information based on individual student status, or enrollment in a CEP school. PrimeroEdge captures free/reduced status in real time for all students participating in the NSLP. The state will be able to identify SNAP and non-SNAP students, for both public and private schools participating in the NSLP. West Virginia conducts direct certification (DC) matching at a more frequent interval than what is required by federal regulations. WV conducts DC matching at 4 weekly intervals for SNAP, TANF and Medicaid, and at monthly intervals for students in the Foster system.

Individual Student Enrollment: WVDE's WVEIS captures enrollment information for WV's public-school students. Only students who are enrolled in school during SY 2021-2022 have active enrollment records in WVEIS. Students who graduated May/June 2022 will remain active in WVEIS until June 30, 2022. This will ensure the state issues to all eligible graduating seniors. WVEIS data batches nightly. Any changes in student enrollment for any student newly enrolled/newly withdrawn is captured daily.

Individual Student Household Contact/Mailing Information: WVDE's WVEIS system captures contact/ mailing information for all students (regardless of selected learning model) enrolled in public schools. Students who attend private schools may have their contact information maintained in the statewide student eligibility system, or at the school level. In cases where eligibility information is maintained at the school level - WVDE will continue to work with these private schools (9 in total) to obtain required information in a secure method.

- 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 21-22 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.

West Virginia's P-EBT allocations are issued retrospectively. With an active approved plan for School Year 2021-22, West Virginia is issuing benefits to school-age children in one fall and two spring batches. From here - using the methodology as described in the preceding bullet for operational management purposes - the State of West Virginia is able to view student enrollment data/learning model which is used to determine who is receiving instruction in-person or virtually in the last month of SY 2021-22. West Virginia's statewide systems that are already in place in terms of enrollment and free/reduced price status - makes this task of determining eligibility and comparing it to learning model/enrollment status relatively easy for the purposes of determining eligibility - even if a student was receiving full-time in-person instruction in the last month of 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).

91% of West Virginia counties are fully CEP. In other words, most public-school students attend a school in West Virginia where they automatically qualify for free/reduced price school meals. Four of West Virginia's 55 counties are partially CEP - meaning some schools qualify and others operate under the traditional free/reduced priced school meal determination process. Finally, 1 county in West Virginia is not currently electing in CEP participation in SY 2021-22. In the partial and non-CEP counties in West Virginia, targeted messages to non-CEP schools will be crafted from the State Agency for SFAs to use to alert families of the opportunity to apply for free/reduce priced school meals. Throughout the various iterations of P-EBT, West Virginia has used this methodology to support SFAs communicating with families about the connection between P-EBT and free/reduce priced school meal status. Messages from SFAs include scripts for robo-calls, web sites, social media pages, and e-learning platforms. The WVDE will also use their platforms of the P-EBT web site and social media pages to make similar announcements.

Every effort will be made to target messages to those segmented areas of the state where an opportunity exists for families to receive information about the necessity to apply for school meal benefits as a connection with Summer P-EBT status. This same methodology and support will continue to be supplied to NSLP-participating private schools in West Virginia. West Virginia will allow newly eligible students to establish eligibility for free or reduced prices meals until the end of the covered Summer period. These children will be issued P-EBT during the catchup issuance tentatively scheduled for September 26, 2022.

For children in childcare:

- Describe how the State will identify children who are enrolled in SNAP during the covered summer period and who received P-EBT childcare benefits in the last month of the school year.

West Virginia will pull updated SNAP enrollment data from the state's eligibility system that includes all children under the age of 6 on **May 15, 2022**. Next, the state will cross reference data received from WVDE of all children under 6 who received P-EBT through the student plan. This is a safety net to ensure that no child (either student or non-student) receives P-EBT as both a student and a non-student. This data pull will capture all children enrolled in SNAP, who were eligible for a P-EBT childcare benefit in the last month of the school year. All P-EBT for non-school children is being issued retroactively for SY21-22.

- Describe how the State will identify children who are enrolled in SNAP during the covered summer period and 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.
- West Virginia will pull updated SNAP enrollment data from the state's eligibility system that includes all children under the age of 6 on **May 15, 2022**. Next, the state will cross reference data received from WVDE of all children under 6 who received P-EBT through the student plan. This is a safety net to ensure that no child (either student or non-student) receives P-EBT as both a student and a non-student. This data pull will capture all children enrolled in SNAP, who would have received a P-EBT benefit in the last month of SY21-22, but their childcare facility was not closed or operating at reduced attendance/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

Only children who receive SNAP benefits during the covered summer period are eligible to receive P-EBT under childcare eligibility. These can include children whose SNAP enrollment begins or ends during the covered summer period. West Virginia will complete a final catchup at the end of the covered summer period. This data pull on September 1, 2022 will capture any child in a SNAP household under 6 who has become newly eligible during Summer. The state will deem these children eligible and issue the USDA standard benefit. These children may include newborn babies added to the SNAP household or children under 6 whose families are SNAP eligible since the beginning of the covered summer period.

4. Confirmation of remaining elements in the State’s approved school plan and/or childcare plan

- Please confirm that your P-EBT summer plan mirrors your approved school year 2021-2022 plan for EBT Processing and Benefit Issuance as well as Customer Service (Sections 7 and 8 of the [SY 21-22 State Plan Template for Pandemic EBT](#)). You do not need to describe in detail how you will handle these matters if your summer plan mirrors your approved school year plan(s); but if your summer plan materially differs from your approved school year plan(s), please describe how.

Response:

West Virginia confirms our P-EBT Summer plan mirrors our approved school year 2021-2022 plan for EBT processing and benefit issuance as well as customer service.

5. Benefit Levels

A. U.S. Standard Benefit

Standard Benefit for School Children

2022 Covered Summer Period	U.S. Standard P-EBT Benefit School Children		
	Median Length of Covered Summer Period (weekdays)	Daily P-EBT Rate	Standard Benefit
Contiguous U.S.	55	\$7.10	\$391
Alaska	55	11.44	629
Hawaii, Guam, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico	55	8.28	455

Standard Benefit for Children in Child Care (Interim)

2022 Covered Summer Period	U.S. Standard P-EBT Benefit Children in Child Care (Interim)			
	Median Length of Covered Summer Period (weekdays)	Length of the Summer During the Public Health Emergency	Daily P-EBT Rate	Interim Standard Benefit
Contiguous U.S.	55	1/2	\$7.10	\$195
Alaska	55	1/2	11.44	315
Hawaii, Guam, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico	55	1/2	8.28	228

State-Determined Benefit, Based on Daily Rate

Note: The daily benefit amount – \$7.10 – 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.

2022 Covered Summer Period	Free Reimbursements			
	Lunch	Breakfast	Snack	Daily Total
Contiguous U.S.	\$3.75	\$2.35	\$1.00	\$7.10
Alaska	6.03	3.78	1.63	11.44
Hawaii, Guam, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico	4.37	2.74	1.17	8.28

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-2021-07-16/pdf/2021-15107.pdf>

Civil Rights Statement

The State will continue to comply with civil rights requirements by not discriminating on the ground of race, color, or national origin, by providing meaningful access to its programs and activities for individuals who are limited English proficient, and by providing equal access to individuals with disabilities.

West Virginia agrees to continue complying with civil rights requirements and providing meaningful access to all populations of eligible children.

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.

West Virginia agrees to administer P-EBT according to the terms of the approved State plan. If there are any major changes that occur following plan approval the State will notify FNS.

Reminder

If the State needs to make any significant changes to its Summer 2022 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
[Print Name and Title]

Signature
[Print Name and Title]

Date of Request: _____