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

Issuing	FNS / Child Nutrition Programs, Supplemental Nutrition			
Agency/Office:	Assistance Program			
Title of Document:	Amendment to Approved State Plan for Pandemic EBT: Children in School and/or Child Care, Summer 2022			
<b>Document ID:</b>				
Z-RIN:				
Date of Issuance:	May 9, 2022			
Replaces:	N/A			
Summary:	<ul> <li>(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)</li> </ul>			

# Additional context and background for this document can be found at: <u>https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/state-guidance-coronavirus-pandemic-ebt-pebt</u>

*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 Children in School and/or Child Care, Summer 2022

# 1. State: Wyoming

**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 benefit<sup>1</sup>, 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 child care 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 child care 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 child care 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 child care, States may apply this 1/2 fraction to the full summer benefit that the State has calculated for school children.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 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 child care.

**Response:** [please use as much space as needed] 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: 25,000 children \* \$391.00 / child = \$9,775,000.00.
  - Estimated amount issued to non-school children in child care: 5,000 children \* \$391.00 / child = \$1,955,000.00
- **d.** Estimated total number of children to which the State will issue P-EBT benefits.
  - Estimated number of school children: 25,000
  - Estimated number of non-school children in child care: 5,000
- 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
  - Children in child care
    - Please provide tentative issuance dates for the interim benefit for children in child care, 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.

Wyoming tentatively plans to issue Summer P-EBT benefits to most eligible children in a single issuance in October 2022. Wyoming will notify State retailers of this issuance two-weeks in advance.

Children who apply for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Free or Reduced-Priced (F/RP) school meals during the summer coverage period (June 15-August 31) and attended a school during the 2021-2022 school year that participated in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) will receive a single Summer P-EBT issuance in November 2022.

**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 21-22.
- 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.
- 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 children who are enrolled in SNAP during the covered summer period and who received P-EBT child care benefits in the last month of the school year.
- 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.

• 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:** [please use as much space as needed] For school-aged children:

1) Under Wyoming's approved School Year 2021-2022 P-EBT plan, the Wyoming Department of Family Services (DFS) will issue P-EBT benefits to eligible students based on student-level data available in the WDE-684. The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) plans to use all school year collections – Fall (October), Spring (March), and End-of-Year (June) to determine P-EBT eligibility for the 2021-2022 School Year.

The June collection will be used to identify students eligible for Summer P-EBT benefits by confirming that each student attended an NSLP-participating school in May 2022, which was the last month of the 2021-2022 school year in Wyoming.

- 2) See above answer. The WDE-684 includes all children eligible for F/RP meals, including those who attended school in-person throughout the 2021-2022 School Year.
- 3) School nutrition staff will process applications submitted during the summer coverage period (through August 31, 2022) once they return to school buildings at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year. WDE expects all F/RP meal applications submitted during the summer coverage period to be processed by mid-September. However, the WDE-684 does not capture the dates that applications for F/RP meals are submitted or processed by local schools, so WDE will not be able to use existing data sources to segregate applications submitted during the covered summer period from those submitted in the first month of the school year (September 1-30). Instead, WDE will need to request a list of students who applied for F/RP meals during the summer months from individual schools. This manual process is expected to take some time, so DFS does not anticipate issuing Summer P-EBT benefits to newly eligible students until November 2022.

Wyoming will only issue Summer P-EBT benefits to newly eligible children who were enrolled in an NSLP-participating school during the 2021-2022 school year. Students attending an NSLP-participating school for the first time during the 2022-2023 school year (such as kindergarteners) will not be eligible for Summer P-EBT benefits.

For children in child care:

DFS will query its SNAP eligibility system to identify children under the age of 6 (as of October 1, 2021) who received SNAP in June, July, and/or August. SNAP enrollment for any portion of the summer coverage period (June 1 – August 15) will result in eligibility for Summer P-EBT benefits. DFS and its vendor (Crocus) will ensure that no child who receives Summer P-EBT benefits under Child Care criteria also receives P-EBT benefits under School Age criteria.

# 4. Confirmation of remaining elements in the State's approved school plan and/or child care 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 <u>SY 21-22 State Plan Template for Pandemic EBT</u>). 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:** [please use as much space as needed]

Wyoming intends to mirror 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**

	U.S. Standard P-EBT Benefit School Children				
2022 Covered Summer Period	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)

	U.S. Standard P-EBT Benefit Children in Child Care (Interim)				
2022 Covered Summer Devied	Median Length of	Length of the			
2022 Covered Summer Period	Covered Summer	Summer During the		Interim	
	Period	Public Health	Daily P-EBT	Standard	
	(weekdays)	Emergency	Rate	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.

	Free Reimbursements				
2022 Covered Summer Period				Daily	
	Lunch	Breakfast	Snack	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.

### **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 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:

Korin A. Schmidt, Director, Wyoming Department of Family Services Chad Auer, J.D. Deputy Superintendent, Wyoming Department of Education

Date of Request: