



Food and Nutrition
Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

September 29, 2023

SUBJECT: Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer Program (P-EBT)
Approval of California's State Plan Amendment,
School Year 2022-2023 for School Children Only

TO: Jesus Mendoza, Jr
Regional Administrator
Western Regional Office

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127; the Act), as amended, authorized a temporary assistance program for households with children without access to meals in school and to certain SNAP-enrolled children in child care during the public health emergency declared on January 27, 2020. Pursuant to the authority granted under Section 1101 of the Act, FNS approved California's plan to operate P-EBT for school year (SY) 2022-2023 for school children on July 19, 2023.

This plan specifies that students attending a homeschool or virtual school in SY 22-23 would have eligibility for PEBT assessed through application. This narrow subset of students includes those who disenrolled from NSLP-participating schools due to concerns about the COVID-19 outbreak after January 27, 2020 through June 30, 2021 (i.e., the end of school year 2020-2021).

On September 19, 2023, California submitted an amendment to extend the end of the date range for which students disenrolled from NSLP-participating schools from June 30, 2021 to October 31, 2021. This change is justified by a marked increase in test positivity rates and new hospitalizations between June 9, 2021 through August 22, 2021. These data points demonstrate peaks in COVID-19 transmission that had not been seen since January 2021.

Additionally, extending the end date to October 31, 2021 helps to ensure that all students who disenrolled from NSLP-participating schools at the end of school year 2020-2021 were adequately captured in each Local Education Agency's (LEA) enrollment database, as not all LEAs updated their enrollment lists for school year 2020-2021 by June 30, 2021. LEAs are required to update enrollment and free and reduced-price information in California's pupil database in October of every year for local funding purposes, so an end date of October 31, 2021 would help ensure that students are not inadvertently denied benefits due to administrative error.

FNS approves California's P-EBT plan amendment to extend the end of the date range which students disenrolled from NSLP-participating schools from June 30, 2021 to October 31, 2021. This date expansion does not increase the estimated number of children who will receive P-EBT benefits in the original SY 22-23 plan.

FNS reminds California 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 PEBT reporting](#), and do not hesitate to contact your Regional Office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Cindy Long
Administrator