

Summer 2023 P-EBT Frequently Asked Questions - Schools

How does a cyber school differ from a virtual learning program implemented during the pandemic?

Cyber schools are not eligible for P-EBT because they do not participate in the NSLP. Districts often call their programs cyber or virtual academies, which are not eligible for P-EBT because they do not participate in the school's NSLP agreement and, in most cases, they were established prior to the pandemic. They are typically run separately from the school building classrooms and the students are enrolled in the cyber program.

Virtual learning programs implemented during the pandemic refer to programs that schools put in place to extend learning from their school buildings to children who could not be in school during the pandemic. These students are enrolled in regular classrooms at the building and the building participates in the NSLP. For this reason, free and reduced or CEP students enrolled in these programs may be considered for P-EBT benefits.

How much will students receive?

For summer 2023, eligible students will receive a stipend of \$120, which is the maximum as determined by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

When will summer 2023 P-EBT benefits be distributed?

At the end of July 2023 through mid-August 2023. Parents/guardians will receive a letter from DHS prior to the student receiving the summer 2023 P-EBT benefit. The letter will advise the parent/guardian that their child is eligible for the summer benefit and provide answers to frequently asked questions.

How will students receive P-EBT funds?

Children whose families already receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits will receive the P-EBT benefits on the household's regular EBT card, if possible. Otherwise, benefits will be loaded on the P-EBT card the child received for last school year, if possible. If a child cannot be matched against a previous P-EBT issuance for the 2021-2022 school year, a new P-EBT card will be mailed to the student at the current address submitted for the student by the school.

What role do schools play?

Schools that participate in the NSLP must submit a Summer 2023 P-EBT file by July 7, 2023. DHS uses data from these submissions as the sole source to determine P-EBT benefits for students.

Families might contact schools with general P-EBT questions or questions about their child's specific P-EBT benefits.

Schools can assist families with general questions by sharing information from the **Family Guide** on their school website or sending the information via email to parents/guardians.

Schools can assist families with questions about P-EBT benefits for their specific child/children by first confirming the data that was submitted to DHS in the school's Summer 2023 P-EBT file. The school should contact the P-EBT School Helpdesk (pebt@csc.csiu.org or 800-683-5100) if they find errors in the P-EBT data they submitted for a child. But if the data the school submitted for the child was correct, the school should then guide the parent/guardian to use one of the DHS family P-EBT resources to obtain an answer to their question (see the Family Guide).

What best practices have schools established to inform parents?

Many schools post the Family Guide for parents on their school/district website and alert parents/guardians via email, text or auto-call that the P-EBT resource has been posted. Some schools email the Family Guide directly to families. In the communication to parents/guardians it is advisable to mention that DHS is currently sending letters to families of students who are eligible for the P-EBT benefit and that the benefits are due to be issued by DHS beginning in late July into August 2023. Make sure families understand that the Family Guide provides links and information that should help them obtain answers for their P-EBT questions.

Can P-EBT cards be used at school to purchase school meals? No. P-EBT benefits can only be used for the same purchases as SNAP, formerly known as food stamps. The card can only be used at approved food retailers, predominantly grocery stores and convenience stores. SNAP benefits and P-EBT cannot be used to purchase hot prepared foods, even at grocery stores and convenience stores.