



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

YVONNE COPELAND • Director, Division of Child and Family Well
Being

Date: April 14, 2023

Attention: Food and Nutrition Services Managers and Supervisors

Subject: Summer Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT)

Priority: Information and Action

Dear County Directors of Social Services:

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) is a federally funded, temporary food assistance program that helps families during the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE). As the PHE ends May 11, 2023, the P-EBT program will also draw to a close for many children on May 11, 2023, including young children under the age of 6 who receive FNS as well as fully virtual and homeschool students in accordance with the guidelines set by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

However, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is allowing states to administer Summer 2023 P-EBT specifically to eligible students in traditional in-person school settings as an extension of the school year 2022-2023 program. Like last year, there are some differences between P-EBT during the school year and Summer P-EBT which has simplified eligibility for students and only one Summer P-EBT benefit payment will be issued per eligible student. Students will be eligible if they attended an in-person traditional school AND were approved for National School Lunch Program's free or reduced-price meals. COVID-19 related school absences are not a factor for summer. This year it is NOT possible to become eligible during the summer. As such, the deadline for eligibility is May 31, 2023.

Summer 2023 is the last cycle of the NC Pandemic EBT program before it draws to a permanent end. There will be no more P-EBT benefits issued after this 2023 summer.

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING

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II. POLICY PROCEDURES

A. Student Summer P-EBT

To be eligible for Summer 2023 P-EBT:

1. A student **must** have attended an in-person school **as of May 2023** and
2. The student **must** be found eligible for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) free or reduced-price meals **as of May 31, 2023**. This can be met in one of the following ways:
 - Student applied through their school and was approved for NSLP free or reduced-price meals, *or*
 - Student attended a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school as of May 2023 (where all students are eligible for free meals), *or*
 - Student was automatically enrolled in free or reduced-price school meals for the school year because of participation in the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) program (Direct Certification) with an effective eligibility date no later than May 31, 2023.

A [P-EBT eligibility quiz](#) for Summer 2023 can be found on the [P-EBT website](#) which can be used by families, DSS staff and partner agencies assisting customers with eligibility questions.

B. Benefits:

The Summer P-EBT benefit is a one-time payment of \$120 for all eligible students to cover the entire summer period (June 1, 2023 – August 31, 2023). This is a standard amount set by the USDA. The Summer P-EBT benefit amount is not dependent on COVID-19 related absences during the school year. Eligible students will get the one-time summer benefit at the end of July 2023.

Benefits will be electronically distributed in **one of three ways**:

1. FNS households: benefits will be deposited on their existing FNS EBT card.
2. Non-FNS households who received P-EBT within the 2022-23 school year: benefits will be deposited on their existing P-EBT card.
3. Non-FNS households who did not receive P-EBT during the 2022-23 school year: benefits will be deposited to a new P-EBT card that will be mailed to the most recent address on file at the student's school. Families should confirm the address with the school.

The third scenario above will result in many new P-EBT cards being mailed with Summer P-EBT benefits and counties may see an influx of undelivered cards.

P-EBT benefits will be deposited and/or mailed to the most recent known household. Benefits will not be reissued due to outdated information. However, P-EBT is meant to benefit the child and should follow the child whenever possible. If the child is part of an active FNS case and changes caregivers (household), the

FNS case should be updated as soon as possible to enable the benefits to be issued to the most current household. If the child is not in an FNS household and the family has a P-EBT-only card, the P-EBT card should follow the child to the new household.

C. Notices:

Communication about Summer P-EBT will occur through a variety of channels including press releases, social media posts, and the North Carolina P-EBT website. Eligibility notices for Summer P-EBT will not be mailed to households. Instead, the Summer P-EBT eligibility notice (attached) will be posted to the P-EBT website at www.ncdhhs.gov/PEBT. There is no denial notice for P-EBT.

D. Reports:

1. Issuance Reports

The BIRT report **P-EBT Cases Cumulative Report 2021-22** for students will be updated with the Summer P-EBT issuances this year and uploaded into NCFAST. It is strongly recommended that counties use all available reports in NCFAST Help, as well as the toolkits provided to assist households when they call or visit the office with specific questions regarding P-EBT benefits.

Note: The information provided on the P-EBT reports is for county use only and cannot be released to callers or to clients who may come into the office. Counties are encouraged to provide the same level of customer service for P-EBT benefits as they do for all other benefits administered through the local DSS agencies.

2. Undelivered Card Report

The **Card Status Report Undelivered County – EBTDS210-4** report is a daily report that lists all EBT cards returned as undeliverable to the EBT vendor (FIS). View here: <https://portal.ebtedge.com/govreports/ReportList.aspx>. The non-FNS P-EBT cards will also be included on this report.

Counties are encouraged to work this report for P-EBT undelivered cards, but it is not required. Additionally, it is strongly recommended that counties use all available reports to assist customers when they call or visit the office with concerns regarding P-EBT benefits. This may include updating the customers address in ebtEDGE and reissuing a new card to the household if they indicate they did not receive their P-EBT card because the address on the report is incorrect or has changed.

Note: While the county is not required to work this report for P-EBT undelivered cards, the requirement to work this report for regular FNS cases is still in effect.

E. Overpayments:

NCDHHS does not intend to pursue claims against households or children if it was discovered that they were incorrectly issued benefits to which they were not entitled.

NCDHHS will contact counties regarding cases where a child's benefits went to the incorrect household. County staff must investigate the case to determine if the children were listed on the household's regular benefits in error. If children were listed on the case in error, only complete a claim of over issuance for regular FNS benefits. Do **NOT** include Summer P-EBT benefits. Do not include P-EBT in any overpayment calculations.

When NCDHHS discovers instances where a child's benefits went to the wrong household or child, NCDHHS will research those cases individually and issue benefits only when the state confirms that its original issuance was made in error.

- **Do not enter Summer P-EBT overpayments into NCFAST.**
- An error in issuance will occur only when there is a system issue that resulted in an overpayment.
- Failure to list correct or to update guardian or address information with the local school system does not constitute an error in issuance.
- NCDHHS will not issue duplicate benefits in cases of disputed guardianship if the state believes the original issuance was correct.
- If an overpayment is discovered that includes both Summer P-EBT benefits and regular benefits, establish the claim only for the regular FNS benefits and do not include any Summer P-EBT benefits.
- P-EBT overpayments will be determined by NCDHHS and tracked on a central spreadsheet at the state level.
- Report all county discovered Summer P-EBT Overpayments via dss.pi.questions@dhs.nc.gov.

F. Toolkit:

A toolkit (attached) has been developed to assist county workers and partner agencies to understand the P-EBT program and in troubleshooting and answering questions. Additional information can be found on the NCDHHS P-EBT website: www.ncdhhs.gov/PEBT. The toolkit includes the following materials:

1. Summer P-EBT **Desk Reference** – *quick reference high-level overview of Summer P-EBT*
2. Summer P-EBT **Call Logics** – *resource for assisting customers and troubleshooting customer questions and concerns*
3. Summer P-EBT **Eligibility Notice** (ENG and SPAN) - *recipients can view on the [P-EBT website](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/PEBT)*

4. Summer P-EBT **Flyer** (ENG and SPAN) – *informational flyer that can be posted or distributed*
5. Summer P-EBT **Slip Sheet, Website and Social Media Content** (ENG and SPAN)– *key links, resources and stock content that can be used on websites and social media handles*
6. Summer P-EBT **Stock Images** (ENG and SPAN) – *images that can be used on a website or social media handles*

III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

This policy is effective upon receipt for all active FNS households and all non-active FNS households matched from the Department of Public Instruction. If you have any questions, please submit them to the Continuous Quality Improvement Team (CQI) dss.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,



Madhu Vulimiri, MPP
Deputy Director
Division of Child and Family Well-Being

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Attached (XX):

Summer P-EBT Desk Reference
Summer P-EBT Call Logics
Eligibility Notice (ENG and SPAN)
Summer P-EBT Flyer (ENG and SPAN)
Summer P-EBT Slip Sheet + Social Media Content
Summer P-EBT Stock Images

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