



# NC PANDEMIC EBT (P-EBT): SUMMER 2023 INFORMATION UPDATED 4/13/2023

Summer 2023 is the last cycle of Pandemic EBT and the program will end. There will be no more P-EBT benefits issued after this summer.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR SUMMER P-EBT BENEFITS?

**A student is eligible for Summer P-EBT if:**

1. Student attends a traditional, in-person school in May 2023, **and**
2. Student is eligible for National School Lunch Program free or reduced-price school meals by May 31, 2023.

**Important information:**

- P-EBT benefits for summer are NOT dependent on ever having COVID-19 related absences during the school year.
- This year students must qualify by the end of the school year (May 2023); it is NOT possible to become newly eligible during the summer.

The Summer P-EBT Letter of Eligibility can be viewed on the P-EBT website at [www.ncdhhs.gov/PEBT](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/PEBT). For a self-guided eligibility quiz, visit: [HERE](#)

## WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR SUMMER P-EBT BENEFITS?

This year federal guidelines for Summer P-EBT have changed to only include traditional in-person students. Some groups of children who qualified for P-EBT during the school year will not be eligible to receive Summer P-EBT according to the new federal rules for the summer program. The children that cannot get summer this year are the **fully virtual and homeschool students and the young children under 6 years old.**

## HOW TO APPLY FOR FNS AND/OR NSLP Free or Reduced-Price Meals

*Families are encouraged to apply by May 1<sup>st</sup>; these applications can take a month or more to process.*

**FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES (FNS):** Households can apply for FNS in 1 of 3 ways:

1. Apply online with ePass at <https://epass.nc.gov/>.
2. Apply in person at your [county Department of Social Services \(DSS\) office](#).
3. Fill out a paper application and mail to/drop off at your [county DSS office](#).

**NSLP FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE MEALS:** Families can apply for NSLP Free or Reduced-Price Meals by contacting the student's school or school district.

## HOW WILL STUDENTS RECEIVE BENEFITS?

Benefits will be electronically loaded in one of three ways:

- **FNS households:** benefits will be deposited on their existing FNS EBT card.
- **Non-FNS households who received P-EBT during the 22-23 school year:** benefits will be deposited on their existing P-EBT card.
- **Non-FNS households who did not receive P-EBT during the 22-23 school year:** benefits will be deposited on 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 by May 31<sup>st</sup>.

If the child has changed households, a caregiver change can be reported by contacting the FNS case worker (if applicable) or the student's school if there is no FNS case. **Benefits are issued using the most recent household information and will not be reissued if outdated.**

## HOW MUCH WILL FAMILIES RECEIVE?

Eligible students will receive a one-time payment of \$120, a standard benefit amount for summer 2023 set by the United States Department of Agriculture.

The summer benefit amount is not dependent on COVID-19 related absences during the school year.

## WHEN WILL BENEFITS BE ISSUED?

North Carolina will start sending out the one-time summer 2023 benefit to families at the end of July and into August 2023. It may take up to 10 days for the benefits to appear on the card for spending.

## HOW TO ACTIVATE A NEW CARD

**To activate or order a new card:**

1. Log in to your [ebtEDGE.com](http://ebtEDGE.com) account and select card from the Welcome page.
2. Download the ebtEDGE app from the App Store or Google Play Store, log in, and select a card.
3. Call the EBT Call Center at [1-888-622-7328](tel:1-888-622-7328) and follow prompts.

**To activate a card and set a PIN:** To activate your card, you will be asked to enter the date of birth (DOB) associated with the card. **If there are multiple children in your household, try the DOB for each student in the household, starting with the youngest student.** Enter the DOB as two digits for the month, two digits for the day, and four digits for the year (MM/DD/YYYY). Once activated, choose and enter a PIN number.

## ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

Visit [www.ncdhhs.gov/PEBT](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/PEBT) to view P-EBT updates and read answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). You can also contact your FNS case worker or the EBT Call Center at [1-866-719-0141](tel:1-866-719-0141).

## KEY DATES AND DEADLINES:

- **May 1:** Apply for free or reduced-price meal / NCFNS for P-EBT consideration; applications can take 30+ days to process
- **May 31:** Deadline for program eligibility
- **End of July:** First issuance for SY 22-23 commences; benefits are deposited for most households (FNS and non-FNS). The issuance will be staggered over several days.
- **End of August:** Catch up issuance for households missed in the first issuance (*this is expected to be the final issuance for P-EBT, including any corrections for school year or summer*)
- **September 30, 2023:** The P-EBT program ends in North Carolina. There will be no issuance this month.