

Important Notice about Your Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT)

Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) is a federally funded, temporary food assistance program that helps families during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Summer P-EBT is an extension of school year 2022-2023 benefits; however, eligibility for Summer P-EBT is simplified and is based on guidelines set by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Please note that this year USDA guidelines have changed to include only traditional in-person students in Summer 2023 P-EBT. Young children, fully virtual students and homeschool students cannot receive Summer P-EBT benefits. The federal government determined which groups of children are included and which are excluded from the Summer 2023 P-EBT program and North Carolina must follow the federal rules. **See below for more information about Summer P-EBT for traditional students.** One payment of **\$120** will be issued per eligible student for the entire summer.

Summer P-EBT Eligibility

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 eligible for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) free or reduced-price meals **by 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 during the 2022-2023 school year (where all students are eligible for free meals), **or**
 - Student was automatically enrolled in free or reduced-price school meals during the school year because of participation in the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) program.

Note that this year it is **NOT** possible to become newly eligible for Summer P-EBT after the end of the 2022-2023 school year (May 2023).

Eligible students will get the one-time summer benefit in July on their family's current FNS EBT card, existing P-EBT card, **or** a new P-EBT card if this is the first time receiving P-EBT this school year.

How to Activate a New Card OR Order a New Card if You Have Lost or Destroyed Your P-EBT Card:

The card works just like a debit card. Before you can use your card, you must first activate your card and select a Personal Identification Number (PIN). There are three ways to activate, check your balance and replace your card:

1. Visit www.ebtedge.com. Click on Cardholder Login. You will be prompted to login and/or register your account.
2. Download and use the **EBT Edge** mobile app (can be downloaded on Google Play or Apple Store).
3. Contact the North Carolina **EBT Call Center at 1-888-622-7328** and follow the prompts.

IMPORTANT: Your activation code to create your PIN will be the date of birth (DOB) of a child in your household. **Try the DOB for each student in your household, starting with the youngest.** Enter the DOB using two digits for the month, two digits for the day, and four digits for the year. For example, if the date of birth is June 1, 2008, you would enter 06012008.

Other Information to Know and What to do if you Have Questions

The P-EBT card can be used to purchase food items at EBT authorized retailers, including most major grocery stores and some [online retailers](#). Hot foods or pre-prepared foods cannot be purchased with your P-EBT benefits.

Examples of items you CAN buy with P-EBT benefits	Examples of items you CANNOT buy with P-EBT benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breads, cereals, fruits, and vegetables• Meat, fish, poultry, and dairy products• Bottled water and non-alcoholic beverages• Seeds and plants that produce food	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beer, wine, liquor, cigarettes, or tobacco• Any nonfood items, such as: pet foods, soaps, household supplies, vitamins and medicine• Hot or pre-prepared foods

If you do not want the P-EBT benefits, you should destroy the P-EBT card. If you change your mind, please call the EBT Call Center at **1-888-622-7328** to request a replacement card before your benefits expire (274 days after the benefits are issued). Selling benefits for cash is illegal and punishable by criminal prosecution. You do not have to spend all of your benefits at one time. If you have general questions about your P-EBT card, you can call the North Carolina EBT Call Center at **1-888-622-7328**. You may also visit North Carolina's P-EBT website at www.ncdhhs.gov/pebt. If you have questions about the free and reduced-price meal program, please contact your local school for more information.