



SUMMER PANDEMIC ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER (P-EBT)

Summer 2023 is the last cycle of Pandemic EBT. After the summer 2023 program is administered, the P-EBT program will draw to a permanent end after serving North Carolina families for 3 successful years.

Since the Spring of 2020, NCDHHS has partnered with NC Department of Public Instruction to issue over **\$2.3 billion** in federal P-EBT benefits to over **1.6 million students and young children**. These benefits have provided critical food assistance to North Carolina families, enabling them to purchase nutritious meals for their children.

There are some changes to the summer P-EBT program this year to comply with USDA guidelines, including changes to which children are eligible to receive the summer benefit.

- This year only traditional in-person students who participate in the National School Lunch Program free or reduced-price meals in May 2023 can receive the one-time P-EBT benefit for the 2023 summer period.
- Young children, fully virtual students, and homeschool students will not receive the Summer P-EBT benefit; the P-EBT program for these children will end with the close of the school year, with May 2023 being the final benefit month.

SUMMER P-EBT OVERVIEW + ELIGIBILITY

North Carolina expects to issue **\$102 million** in benefits to approximately **850,000 children** through the 2023 Summer P-EBT program. Families can expect to receive a one-time payment of **\$120** per eligible child. Benefits can be used to buy food at authorized retailers and certain [online retailers](#), including most major grocery stores.

Eligibility for P-EBT is based on a child’s participation in other specific food assistance programs (see below). **An eligibility quiz for families and partners to use can be found [HERE](#) (in English) or [HERE](#) (in Spanish).**

Student Summer P-EBT

To be eligible for Summer 2023 P-EBT:

1. A student must have attended an in-person school that participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) in May 2023 and

2. The student must be eligible for 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 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 2022-2023 school year because of participation in the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) program.

IMPORTANT: Families are encouraged to apply for free or reduced-price meals at school or for NC Food and Nutrition Services (food stamps) by May 1; the eligibility cutoff date is May 31 and these applications can take over a month to process.

Eligible students will get the **one-time summer benefit in July** on their family’s current FNS EBT card or existing P-EBT card if they have received P-EBT before. If this is a student’s first time receiving P-EBT, they will get a new P-EBT card in the mail 2 – 3 weeks after issuance.

OTHER KEY INFORMATION AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Questions about the P-EBT program? Visit www.ncdhhs.gov/PEBT. To view the website in Spanish, click “Versión en Español” on the homepage or visit [HERE](#).

Families can receive Summer P-EBT benefits and continue to receive any other benefits the household may have access to. For more information, visit www.ncdhhs.gov/PEBT and view the [P-EBT FAQs](#) to learn about additional resources.



Comparison Chart: Summer 2022 vs. Summer 2023

Summer 2022	Summer 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional, in-person students received P-EBT. The benefit is a one-time payment covering June 1 – August 31. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional, in-person students can receive P-EBT. The benefit is a one-time payment covering June 1 – August 31.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The one-time summer payment was \$391 per eligible child. Young children under age 6 received the benefit. Families could take action to become eligible during the summer period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The one-time summer payment is \$120 per eligible child. Young children under age 6 will NOT receive the benefit. Students must be eligible as of May 31, 2023; they CANNOT become eligible over the summer.

Comparison Chart: School Year 22-23 vs. Summer 2023

School Year 22-23	Summer 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional, in-person students received P-EBT. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional, in-person students will receive P-EBT.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive benefits, a child must have experienced a COVID-19 related absence. Young children under age 6 and students in fully virtual / homeschool received the benefit. Benefit levels are \$8.18 per COVID-19 related absence day. Monthly retroactive issuances conducted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive benefits, a child must just have been approved for free or reduced-price school meals in May 2023; absences are not a factor. Young children under age 6 and students in fully virtual / homeschool will NOT receive the benefit. Benefit level is a one-time payment of \$120 to cover the entire summer.