



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:** May 1, 2024

**Attention:** Child Welfare Staff

**Subject:** SUN Bucks (also known as Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (S-EBT))

**Priority:** Information for Awareness & Requested Action

**Dear Child Welfare Staff:**

**I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

USDA created a new, permanent food assistance program for children called SUN Bucks, also known as Summer EBT. NC will launch SUN Bucks in 2024 to provide school-age children with grocery-buying benefits for the summer period when school is not in session. Children who qualify will receive a one-time payment of \$120 per eligible child for the summer period. SUN Bucks will be delivered on debit-like EBT cards and can be used to purchase groceries at retailers that accept EBT. This program is estimated to reach nearly 1 million children in 2024.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (PL 117-328) (the Act) authorized a permanent, nationwide Summer EBT program beginning in 2024. The Act gives the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture authority to issue guidance and approve State agency plans.

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the NC Department of Public Instruction (DPI) have collaborated to administer the new program in 2024. SUN Bucks is different than the federally funded, temporary P-EBT program designed to provide benefits to purchase foods for students and young children during COVID-19. The P-EBT program ended in 2023.

Many children will be automatically eligible for SUN Bucks, but some will need to apply. An online application will be made available during May 2024. Eligibility Notices will not be mailed. Instead, they will be distributed via email, text, and robocall. Families should be encouraged to review the notice for important information about SUN Bucks.

SUN Bucks issuances will occur every two weeks from late June through September as new children are determined eligible. Most children who automatically qualify will get the benefit in June.

**Important information about SUN Bucks cards for foster children:**

- New SUN Bucks cards will be mailed for all students identified as foster children.
- The cards will be issued in the student's name and will not be grouped together with multiple children.
- SUN Bucks cards will be mailed to the local county DSS office with custody of the child in foster care.
- **The student's foster care social worker will provide the card or assist with transfer of the card to the student's placement provider, whether that is a family foster home or congregate care setting. It is imperative that the child's foster care social worker facilitates the transfer of the card with the child should they change caregivers.**
- The FAQs provide additional information about where cards will be sent, and can be viewed [HERE](#).

More information on the new SUN Bucks program including frequently asked questions, an informational flyer, a toolkit and additional resources can be found at [www.ncdhhs.gov/sunbucks](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/sunbucks).