

SUN Bucks Basics

SUN Bucks, sometimes called Summer EBT, is a new federal program that helps families who qualify buy groceries during the summer using a debit-like EBT card.

To get SUN Bucks, the child must meet criteria set by the USDA. Some kids will automatically qualify, while others can apply. Children must individually qualify during the school year before the summer starts or they can apply over the summer.

Each student who qualifies will receive one payment of **\$120 in benefits** for the summer period.

Visit www.ncdhhs.gov/sunbucks for more information, latest updates, and answers to Frequently Asked Questions.

Who Will Get SUN Bucks Benefits?

NSLP School Student Eligibility

Students enrolled in NSLP schools are automatically eligible if they participate in **at least one** of the following:

- NSLP free or reduced-price (FRP) school meals
- FNS (food stamps)
- Work First (TANF, cash assistance)
- Medicaid with household income below 185% of the federal poverty level
- Foster care

All other students that attend an NSLP school **may apply** for SUN Bucks by completing an application.

Non-NSLP School Student Eligibility

Students **NOT** enrolled in NSLP schools are automatically eligible if they are **between the ages of 7 and 16** and participate in **at least one** of the following:

- FNS (food stamps)
- Work First (TANF, cash assistance)
- Medicaid with household income below 185% of the federal poverty level
- Foster care

All other Non-NSLP students are not eligible to apply for SUN Bucks.

CEP Student Eligibility

Students in CEP schools are automatically eligible if they participate in **at least one** of the following programs:

- FNS (food stamps)
- TANF (Work First, cash assistance)
- Medicaid with household income below 185% of the federal poverty level
- Foster care

All other students that attend a CEP school **may apply** for SUN Bucks by completing an application.

Acronyms Key

NSLP: National School Lunch Program

FRP: Free or Reduced Price

CEP: Community Eligibility Provision

FNS: Food and Nutrition Services

USDA: United States Department of Agriculture

TANF: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

When and Where will SUN Bucks Benefits be Issued?

Late June 2024 to September 2024: Summer 2024 benefits for qualifying students will be issued approximately every two weeks between late June 2024 and September 2024 as children are determined eligible.

- If the student has FNS benefits, SUN Bucks will be loaded to their existing account.
- If the student does **not** have FNS benefits, they will receive a SUN Bucks EBT card.

Activate a new card

To activate a card, the PIN activation code will be the birth date of one of the school-aged children in the household. Families should try the birth date for each student in the household, starting with the youngest. Enter the birth date using two numbers for the month, two for the day, and four for the year. For example, if the birth date of the youngest school-aged child is Bucks is June 1, 2008, you would put in 06012008.

Points of Contact / Additional Questions

Families should check if they automatically qualify for SUN Bucks first. **If they are eligible to apply, they can visit www.ncdhhs.gov/sunbucks.** If they need help applying, please call 1-866-719-0141, and select Option 2 for SUN Bucks.

You can also find answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the website.

Other Resources

Other food benefit programs if they need help with food assistance now include:

- 1. FRP school meals** – Provides children and teenagers breakfast, lunch, and snacks while they are at school at low or no cost. Contact your child's school for more information and to apply.
- 2. FNS; Food Stamps; Women, Infants, and Children** – Food benefits that are issued to a debit card for families to purchase groceries. More information can be found at the FNS Homepage at www.ncdhhs.gov/fns.
- 3. Meals to Go and Group Meal Services** – Two other federally-assisted summer meal programs.
- 4. NC 2-1-1** – Find organizations in your community for health and human services by visiting www.nc211.org.

