

MAINE P-EBT & SUMMER P-EBT TOOLKIT FOR FAMILIES

This toolkit includes the following resources:

[Maine P-EBT Quick Facts](#)

[Maine P-EBT & Summer P-EBT Eligibility Quick Reference](#)

[5 Things to Know About P-EBT and Summer P-EBT in Maine](#)

[Frequently asked Questions](#)

Maine P-EBT Quick Facts

P-EBT & Summer P-EBT 101

- P-EBT and Summer P-EBT helps families buy the food your family wants while schools are closed. They are similar programs offered to eligible school-aged children and eligible children under the age of six, but have different eligibility and enrollment requirements (see below).
- Most eligible families will receive P-EBT automatically; some will need to complete a school meal application and/or enroll in SNAP
- P-EBT does not impact immigration status.
- Families receiving P-EBT and Summer P-EBT can still get free summer meals from schools and community sites. Summer meals and P-EBT are separate programs. To find a free meal site near you, you can:
 - visit www.fns.usda.gov/meals4kids
 - text Summer Meals to 97779
 - call 1-866-348-6479
- If you get P-EBT and/or Summer P-EBT, you may be eligible for SNAP.
 - To find out if you are eligible, use this calculator: <https://www.ptla.org/maine-food-supplement-estimators>.
 - Apply for SNAP at: <https://apps1.web.maine.gov/benefits/account/login.html>

Maine P-EBT & Summer P-EBT Eligibility Quick Reference

	P-EBT (School Year 2020-2021)		SUMMER P-EBT	
	Eligibility Requirement	How to Enroll	Eligibility Requirement	How to Enroll
School Aged Children	<p>Your Child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be enrolled in SNAP and/or free or reduced-price school meals at a school operating the National School Lunch Program; OR, • Must be enrolled in a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) or Provision-2 school, which offers breakfast and lunch free to all students; AND, • Must have not had access to an in-school lunch at least some days of the month; <p>Your School:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must operate the National School Lunch Program; AND, • Must have been closed or operating at reduced capacity at least 5 consecutive days at some point during the 2020-2021 School Year. 	<p>Enrollment for P-EBT for SY 20-21 closed July 1, 2021.</p> <p>NOTE: If your child meets the eligibility requirements AND was enrolled in the final month of school, they may be eligible for Summer P-EBT.</p>	<p>Your Child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be enrolled in SNAP and/or free or reduced-price school meals at a school operating the National School Lunch Program; OR, • Must be enrolled in a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) or Provision-2 school, which offers breakfast and lunch free to all students; AND, • Must have been enrolled in the final month of school <p>Your School:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must operate the National School Lunch Program 	<p>Complete and submit a free or reduced-priced meal form by August 31st to your school.</p>
Children Under 6	<p>Your Child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be under age 6 • Must be recently or currently enrolled in SNAP <p>A school in your county:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must operate the National School Lunch Program; AND • Must have been closed or operating at reduced capacity at least 5 consecutive days at some point during the 2020-2021 School Year. 	<p>Enroll in SNAP through <u>My Maine Connection</u> or apply over the phone by calling: 1-855-797-4357</p>	<p>Your Child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be under age 6 • Must be currently enrolled in SNAP 	<p>Enroll in SNAP through <u>My Maine Connection</u> or apply over the phone by calling: 1-855-797-4357</p>

Five things to know about P-EBT & Summer P-EBT in Maine

What is P-EBT and Summer P-EBT?



P-EBT is a new federal nutrition program that provides a small grocery benefit for families to **purchase food**. P-EBT was first available in 2020 for families with school-aged children, and the benefits were extended in 2021 to include some families with young children (ages 0-6) as well. A similar benefit, called Summer P-EBT will be issued in September to all eligible children in Maine.

How much is the P-EBT and Summer P-EBT benefit?



Each eligible child receives \$6.82 for each school day in which in-person learning was impacted due to the pandemic during the 2020-2021 school year. The total benefit will vary with a maximum benefit of **about \$34 per child, per week**. Summer P-EBT benefits will average **\$375 per child** for the full break and will be issued in September 2021 retroactively.

Who qualifies for P-EBT & Summer P-EBT?



P-EBT is for **students who qualify for free or reduced-priced school meals**, including all students attending a school using options like the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) to offer universal free school meals. A student must also be in a school whose predominant learning model was virtual or a hybrid model due to pandemic-related school closures or schedule changes. In the 2020-2021 school year, most **children under the age of six** in families participating in SNAP/Food Supplement are also eligible for P-EBT benefits if nearby schools are virtual or hybrid. All children under the age of six enrolled in SNAP and school-aged students enrolled in free or reduced-priced school meals may also be eligible for Summer P-EBT.

How do families receive P-EBT and Summer P-EBT benefits?



Most eligible children receive P-EBT benefits **automatically**. Students must be enrolled in free and reduced-price school meals and/or enrolled in SNAP. Young children are eligible if they are in families with SNAP. Text the word “food” to 74544 to find out if you may also be eligible for SNAP.

Do families need to apply for P-EBT and Summer P-EBT benefits?



While P-EBT benefits are automatically provided to most eligible children, it is important for families with school-aged children to **complete a school meal benefit application** for each school year and to **make sure the school has the correct mailing address**.

To learn more, visit: FeedKids.me

Frequently asked Questions

What are P-EBT and Summer P-EBT food benefits?

The Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) and Summer P-EBT programs **provide benefits to students who are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals**. P-EBT and Summer P-EBT are temporary food benefit programs operating during the COVID-19 pandemic for days school buildings are closed.

P-EBT is also available to certain young children who are enrolled in SNAP and live in a county where there is at least one school operating a hybrid or fully virtual learning model. Summer P-EBT will be administered to all children under the age of 6 who are enrolled in SNAP.

Who is eligible for P-EBT and Summer P-EBT benefits?

Both the child/student and the local school must meet the following criteria to be eligible for P-EBT: Children that are homeschooled are not eligible for P-EBT.

	P-EBT (School Year 2020-2021)		SUMMER P-EBT	
	Eligibility Requirement	How to Enroll	Eligibility Requirement	How to Enroll
School Aged Children	<p>Your Child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be enrolled in SNAP and/or free or reduced-price school meals at a school operating the National School Lunch Program; OR, Must be enrolled in a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) or Provision-2 school, which offers breakfast and lunch free to all students; AND, Must have not had access to an in-school lunch at least some days of the month; <p>Your School:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must operate the National School Lunch Program; AND, Must have been closed or operating at reduced capacity at least 5 consecutive days at some point during the 2020-2021 School Year. 	<p>Enrollment for P-EBT for SY 20-21 closed July 1, 2021.</p> <p>NOTE: If your child meets the eligibility requirements AND was enrolled in the final month of school, they may be eligible for Summer P-EBT.</p>	<p>Your Child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be enrolled in SNAP and/or free or reduced-price school meals at a school operating the National School Lunch Program; OR, Must be enrolled in a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) or Provision-2 school, which offers breakfast and lunch free to all students; AND, Must have been enrolled in the final month of school <p>Your School:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must operate the National School Lunch Program; AND, 	<p>Complete and submit a Free or Reduced Priced meal form by August 31st to your school</p>
Children Under 6	<p>Your Child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be under age 6 Must be recently or currently enrolled in SNAP <p>A school in your county:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must operate the National School Lunch Program; AND Must have been closed or operating at reduced capacity at least 5 consecutive days at some point during the 2020-2021 School Year. 	<p>Enroll in SNAP through My Maine Connection or apply over the phone by calling: 1-855-797-4357</p>	<p>Your Child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be under age 6 Must be currently enrolled in SNAP 	<p>Enroll in SNAP through My Maine Connection or apply over the phone by calling: 1-855-797-4357</p>

How much is the P-EBT and Summer P-EBT food benefit?

P-EBT benefits will be issued based on school enrollment data and the predominant learning model. The benefit amount may change month-to-month depending on the school's learning model per month.

- Fully remote -- Eligible students who are in schools where most students were fully remote for the month will receive \$119.35 monthly for September 2020 through June 2021.
- Hybrid -- Eligible students who are in schools where most students were operating a hybrid model will receive \$59.68 monthly for September 2020 through June 2021.

Eligible children will also receive additional benefits throughout the summer months that will be administered in September. Eligible children will receive up to \$375 for the summer months

When will P-EBT and Summer P-EBT benefits be issued?

Benefits will be issued for the 2020 – 2021 school year in three payments, beginning in June 2021. The second payment will occur one month after the first payment and the third payment will follow one month after that.

Summer P-EBT Benefits will be issued at the end of September 2021 and will be retroactive for July and August.

How are P-EBT benefits issued? Do I need to apply?

If your eligible child is already enrolled in SNAP:

- Your family will get P-EBT automatically on your Pine Tree Card if enrolled in SNAP in February 2021 or later.
- Families should hold onto their P-EBT card(s) because future benefits may be loaded onto the same card.

If your eligible school-age child is already enrolled in free or reduced-price school meals AND your address is up to date:

- Your family will get P-EBT automatically.
- Each child will receive their own card.
- Cards will arrive in an unmarked envelope so please be on the lookout.
- Families should hold onto their P-EBT card(s) because future benefits may be loaded onto the same card.

If you recently moved and/or your address is not up to date with school administration, your card may have been mailed to your child's school.

When I get my child's P-EBT card, do I need to activate it?

Yes, you will need to activate the P-EBT card by calling the phone number on the card. You will choose a PIN, like with a debit card or bank card. When you go shopping, you will use this PIN in order to use the card.

When you call to activate the card, it will ask for your child's date of birth and the last four digits of their social security number. If your child does not have a social security number OR if your school did not provide the student's social security number, enter 9999 instead.

Will getting this benefit count in a public charge test? Does immigration status matter?

No. P-EBT will not count in a public charge test. All eligible students are eligible for P-EBT regardless of immigration status. Visit [ProtectingImmigrantFamilies.Org](https://www.protectingimmigrantfamilies.org) for information about what public benefits impact the public charge test.

I have been receiving grab 'n go meals at my local school. Can I still receive P-EBT?

Yes, children and teens receiving P-EBT can also receive free meals from school and community sites— they are separate programs. To find a summer meal site near you, visit <https://www.fns.usda.gov/meals4kids>, text Summer Meals to 97779, or call 1-866-348-6479.

In the 2019-2020 school year I received P-EBT benefits. Will the benefits for the 2020-2021 school year be loaded onto the same P-EBT card?

If your family was enrolled in SNAP in February 2021 or later you will receive P-EBT benefits on your Pine Tree Card. If your family was enrolled in SNAP before February 2021 you will receive a new P-EBT card for each eligible child with the child's name on the card. Each month, benefits will automatically be loaded onto that card for as long as P-EBT operates.

In the 2020-2021 school year I received P-EBT benefits. Will the benefits for Summer P-EBT be loaded onto the same P-EBT card?

Yes, benefits will automatically be loaded onto that card for as long as P-EBT and Summer P-EBT operate.

My child received P-EBT during the 2019-2020 and/or the 2020-2021 school year(s) and we haven't used all of our benefits yet. Will these benefits expire?

P-EBT benefits expire 274 days after they are loaded onto your P-EBT or Pinetree Card.

How do I know if my family is eligible for SNAP?

You can use this online benefit calculator to determine eligibility: <https://www.ptla.org/maine-food-supplement-estimators>.

You can also text the word FOOD to 74544 to complete a quick screening for SNAP. Visit the [Office for Family Independence](#) to learn more.

I did not receive a P-EBT card in the mail. Who do I contact?

If you have not received your P-EBT card, please visit <https://www.pinetreecard.com/meebtclient/#> and report a missing card. Due to postal delays, EBT and P-EBT cards are taking 10-14 days to arrive by mail.

You may also consider checking in with your child's school to see if the card was sent there.

If my child receives P-EBT, can I still get food pantry benefits?

Yes, your participation in government programs does not affect your ability to get food from a food pantry. Visit <https://www.qsfb.org/get-help/> or [Contact 211](#) for information on food pantries in your area.

Where can I redeem P-EBT benefits?

P-EBT benefits are provided on a card that can be used like a debit card to purchase food at SNAP/Pine Tree Card authorized grocery stores. Most Maine grocers accept this card. SNAP and P-EBT benefits can be used for online purchasing at [Amazon and Amazon Fresh](#) and [Walmart](#) for delivery or curbside pick-up purchases.

I think my child is eligible for free or reduced-price meals but we haven't enrolled. Can I still get P-EBT?

No, P-EBT enrollment for school year 2020-2021 has ended. However, you may be eligible for Summer P-EBT, but **your child must have been enrolled in school during the last month of school AND you must apply for free or reduced-price meals** with your child's school. Contact your school district to apply. School Meal Applications can also be downloaded here: <https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition/studenteligibility>

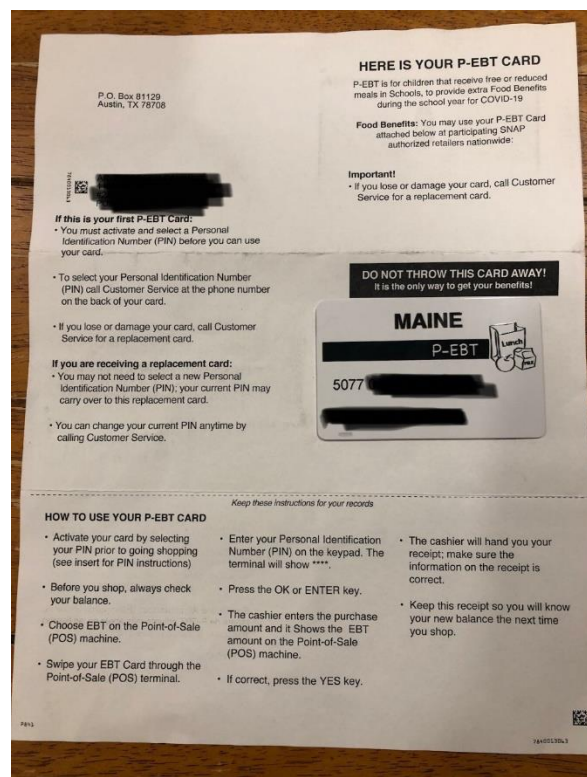
How do I know if my child is eligible for free or reduced-price lunch?

The table below shows the income guidelines for free and reduced-price lunches. You will be eligible for P-EBT whether you received free OR reduced-price meals. Visit <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/IEG-21.pdf> for more information.

Income Eligibility Guidelines Effective from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021											
Household Size	Free Meals 130% Federal Poverty Guideline					Household Size	Reduced-Price Meals 185% Federal Poverty Guideline				
	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly		Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	16,588	1,383	692	638	319	1	23,606	1,968	984	908	454
2	22,412	1,868	934	862	431	2	31,894	2,658	1,329	1,227	614
3	28,236	2,353	1,177	1,086	543	3	40,182	3,349	1,675	1,546	773
4	34,060	2,839	1,420	1,310	655	4	48,470	4,040	2,020	1,865	933
5	39,884	3,324	1,662	1,534	767	5	56,758	4,730	2,365	2,183	1,092
6	45,708	3,809	1,905	1,758	879	6	65,046	5,421	2,711	2,502	1,251
7	51,532	4,295	2,148	1,982	991	7	73,334	6,112	3,056	2,821	1,411
8	57,356	4,780	2,390	2,206	1,103	8	81,622	6,802	3,401	3,140	1,570
For each additional family member, add	5,824	486	243	224	112	For each additional family member, add	8,288	691	346	319	160

What will my child's card look like?

Cards will arrive in an unmarked envelope so please be on the lookout.



← This is what the card will look like when it arrives in the mail!

For more information about P-EBT, please visit the [Office for Family Independence](#) or review [P-EBT Frequently Asked Questions](#) at feedkids.me