

Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT)

Under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020, families that qualify for free or reduced price meals at school may be eligible for a new one-time Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) of up to \$302 per child (Pre-Kindergarten – Grade 12) to help cover the cost of meals students have eaten at home on days that schools have been closed. Students can receive P-EBT benefits even if they have been or continue to receive meals provided by the school district during the school closure. If your child was not previously eligible for free or reduced price meals, but you have now lost income, you may be eligible to receive P-EBT benefits (review the P-EBT Eligibility Criteria document below).

The benefit is placed on an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card families use to buy food. If you received Food Stamp (SNAP) benefits in March, **do not** apply for these new/additional benefits. The full \$302 will automatically be loaded to your existing EBT card. If you **did not** receive Food Stamp (SNAP) benefits in March, you must apply for this benefit by June 30, 2020 (see below).

The most efficient way to apply is to submit your application online:
EmergencyMealSurvey.com/MO.

You will also likely experience a faster approval process. If you're not able to apply online, you can follow the link below to the paper application. The fillable PDF document can then be emailed or mailed to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). You will find complete instructions and additional details in the letter to families below.

Please review these important documents carefully:

- [P-EBT Letter to Families](#)
- [P-EBT Eligibility Criteria](#)
- [P-EBT Online Application](#)
- [P-EBT Paper Application](#) (hard copy to fill out and email or mail to DESE if you're not able to submit the application online)
- [P-EBT Frequently Asked Questions](#)

To request a paper application be mailed to you, please contact our Food and Nutrition Services office at 314-345-4519. Please do not send completed applications to your school; see the letter to families above for application submission information.

The Department of Social Services (DSS) will send families a letter indicating they are approved or denied. If you have questions on how to apply for the P-EBT benefit, contact DSS through the online chat feature at mydss.mo.gov or call 855-373-4636. For more information on the EBT card, visit: mydss.mo.gov/food-assistance/ebt.

FAQs

What is P-EBT? Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) helps cover food costs for children who qualify for free or reduced lunch at school but are not in school due to the pandemic.

Who is eligible? You may be able to get P-EBT benefits if you have a child or children in grades Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12 who would have received free or reduced-price meals at school if schools were still open.

You may also qualify based off your income. For example, if your child was not previously getting free or reduced-price meals but you have lost income, you may be able to get P-EBT benefits. You will receive a letter from the school district with income guidelines and additional information. If you would like to apply for benefits and have not received this letter by May 29, 2020, contact your local school district.

How do I get benefits? P-EBT benefits are loaded to an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card. If you received Food Stamp (SNAP) benefits in March, P-EBT benefits will be automatically loaded to your EBT card. You will not need to call or apply to get P-EBT.

If you did not receive Food Stamp (SNAP) benefits in March, you will need to apply for P-EBT. If you aren't sure if you received SNAP benefits in March, you can check the status of your benefits to find out.

How do I apply? The letter you receive from your school district will include information on how to apply online or by mail.

How much is the P-EBT benefit? If you received Food Stamp (SNAP) benefits in March, you will receive \$302 per eligible child for the months of March, April, and May.

If you did not get Food Stamp (SNAP) benefits in March, you will report your income for March, April, and May when you apply. The amount of your P-EBT benefits will depend on your eligibility for those months. The maximum amount is \$302 per eligible child, which includes:

- March: \$57
- April: \$125
- May: \$120

Resource Parents who did not receive Food Stamp (SNAP) benefits in March will need to apply for P-EBT benefits. You will only be eligible for help the months you were caring for a child in foster care. You will need to include all children who may be eligible for P-EBT benefits in your household on your application.

How did you determine the P-EBT benefit amount? If you received Food Stamp (SNAP) benefits in March, your benefit amount was figured based on the cost of free and reduced-price lunch:

- The cost of free and reduced lunch is \$5.70 per eligible child per day
- As March 18th was the average day of school closures, the amount was calculated from March 18th – May 31st or 53 days
- The final calculation was $\$5.70 \times 53 = \302

If you did not get Food Stamp (SNAP) benefits in March, your benefit will be calculated and issued for each eligible child: month.

- March: \$57 (10 days at \$5.70)
- April: \$125 (22 days at \$5.70)
- May: \$120 (21 days at \$5.70)

How long will P-EBT benefits stay on my EBT card? P-EBT benefits are good for 365 days from the date the benefits are placed on your EBT card.

Can my student still participate in meals provided by the school if I receive P-EBT benefits? Yes, students can receive P-EBT and also get meals provided by the school district during the school closure.

What if I did not receive benefits for all of the children in my household, or I disagree with the benefit amount? You will need to call the Family Support Division Information Center at 855-373-4636 and ask for your case to be reviewed.

If you are eligible for benefits for a child who was not previously included, that benefit will be added to your EBT card. If you are not eligible for benefits, you will get a letter in the mail letting you know you have been denied and the reason why.

If my household income has changed during the pandemic, how can I apply to have my children participate in the Free or Reduced Meal Program when schools reopen? Each local school district will accept new Free or Reduced Meal Program applications once schools are back in session.