

Kentucky Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Frequently Asked Questions

What is P-EBT?

P-EBT provides benefits to households with children eligible for free or reduced-price school meals through the USDA National School Lunch Program (NSLP) during the COVID-19 response. P-EBT provides a benefits card families can use to replace school meals. For more information, please visit the [CHFS P-EBT webpage](#).

Who is eligible for P-EBT Stimulus?

Students who attend public or private schools offering NSLP who qualify for free or reduced-price meals are eligible if:

Students were/are enrolled in a virtual or hybrid learning model as verified by their school district.

Students who are not eligible:

- Families with students enrolled in all in-person classes
- Traditional homeschool students
- Families with students in military boarding schools
- Families with students enrolled in schools that do not offer NSLP

How do I apply for the P-EBT?

No application is required. Eligible students are automatically approved.

Can I opt-out of the P-EBT?

Call (855) 306-8959 to opt-out of the P-EBT.

How much is the P-EBT?

P-EBT amounts vary and are specific to the most common learning model in the student's school district. Maximum rates in Kentucky are applied including the severe-need breakfast, lunch and snack rates. Weekends and holidays are not included.

Rates per student:

Daily Rate - \$6.82

Total for **12** days of P-EBT if the student's school district schedule had a hybrid schedule (both virtual and in-person) – \$81.84

Total for **20** days of P-EBT Stimulus if the student's school district schedule had an all virtual schedule – \$136.40

Students in school districts with full-time in-person classes are **not eligible** for P-EBT

What if my child received benefits for 12 days, but was enrolled in all-virtual classes?

To request a reconsideration of the number of eligible days, households can call toll free (855) 306-8959. Caller must identify the student by full name, date of birth and state student ID number (SSID).

For SSID numbers for students in private school, call the school then call toll free (855) 306-8959 for any change requests.

How will I receive my P-EBT benefits?

Households already receiving SNAP benefits:

- P-EBT benefits will be added to the existing EBT card for households already receiving SNAP benefits will be issued P-EBT benefits on the existing EBT card. See [eligibility criteria](#)
- The P-EBT card will include benefits for all eligible children on the head of household's card.

Households not receiving SNAP benefits:

- First-time P-EBT recipients will receive a P-EBT card for each eligible child to their home address.
- Students who received P-EBT benefits in August/September will receive their benefits on the previously issued card.

What months does the P-EBT Stimulus cover?

October 2020 through the end of the current school year

When will I receive my P-EBT Stimulus?

Back payments from October 2020 through February 2021 will appear on your card in weekly intervals starting the week of March 15, 2021.

Payment Period	Payment Issuance Week
October 2020	March 15, 2021
November 2020	March 22, 2021
December 2020	March 29, 2021
January 2021	April 5, 2021
February 2021	April 12, 2021
March 2021	April 25, 2021
April 2021	May 25, 2021
May 2021	June 25, 2021

How can I get help with P-EBT?

Please call toll free (855) 306-8959 and select Healthcare and Food Benefits option if you need assistance.

What if I need a P-EBT card or need a replacement for a lost P-EBT card?

If your address has changed since you last received a P-EBT card, call the help desk toll free at (855) 306-8959 to request a new or replacement card.

If your address has not changed since you last received a P-EBT card, call the automated line toll free at (888) 979-9949.

Is the P-EBT a public assistance program?

No. The P-EBT helps reimburse families facing unexpected new expense of meals at home for a student who normally would have received free/reduced-price meals at school through the NSLP.

Can I still pick up meals at school while receiving the P-EBT?

Yes. Households with students at schools distributing meals can receive the P-EBT and also pick up meals from schools if offered.

Is the P-EBT the same as SNAP (formerly known as Food Stamps)?

No. P-EBT is separate from SNAP.

Are homeschool children eligible?

No. Only children who were enrolled in a public or private school where they receive free/reduced price meals through the NSLP are eligible for the P-EBT.

Will Head Start students receive the P-EBT?

Head Start students eligible for free or reduced-price meals at schools offering the NSLP and who meet the appropriate class schedule (virtual or hybrid) are eligible to receive the P-EBT.

I have more than one child eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Will I receive one card or individual cards for each child?

Households already receiving SNAP benefits:

- The head of household will receive all P-EBT benefits on their SNAP EBT card, even if the family has more than one student eligible for the P-EBT.

Households not receiving SNAP benefits:

- P-EBT benefits will be added to existing or new P-EBT cards in each student's name.

Can student benefits be split between households?

No. Benefits will be issued to each child based on the most recent address available. It is important to remember that the benefit is for the child and provided to the parent or guardian purchasing food for the child.

What can I buy with the P-EBT?

Any food for the household, such as:

- Fruits and vegetables
- Meat, poultry, fish
- Dairy products
- Breads and cereals
- Snack foods and non-alcoholic beverages
- Seeds and plants which produce food for the child to eat

Households **may not** use P-EBT benefits to buy:

- Beer, wine, liquor, cigarettes, tobacco
- Vitamins, medicines, supplements
Items with a supplement facts label are considered supplements and not eligible for P-EBT purchase.
- Live animals (except shellfish, fish removed from water and animals slaughtered prior to pick-up from the store).
- Prepared foods fit for immediate consumption
- Hot foods
- Nonfood items such as:
 - Pet foods
 - Cleaning supplies, paper products and other household supplies.
 - Hygiene items, cosmetics

Do I have to purchase items only in Kentucky?

No, you may use your P-EBT card anywhere EBT is accepted.

Can I purchase items online?

Yes. You may use your P-EBT card to make online purchases at participating retailers. Please refer to retailer websites for more information.

How long do I have to spend my P-EBT benefits?

Your P-EBT benefits will remain active on your card as long as you use some of them at least once every nine months.

If I receive the P-EBT will it affect my eligibility for other public assistance programs?

No. P-EBT benefits are an additional service and do not affect your eligibility for other public assistance programs. We encourage families to continue using school and community meal sites for free, nutritious meals for children. Families can go online to [Meals for Kids interactive map](#) for local sites where kids can get free meals.

Will P-EBT hurt my ability to change my immigration status or become a US citizen?

No. Receipt of P-EBT is not considered for any immigration determination.

What information is needed to activate my P-EBT card?

You must enter the date of birth (MM/DD/YYYY) of the person whose name is on the card and zip code where the card was mailed.

What does the card look like?

