



CABINET FOR HEALTH  
AND FAMILY SERVICES

# Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (SEBT) Eligibility Quick Reference Guide

## Introduction

This Quick Reference Guide (QRG) is used to inform Kentucky Residents about the new Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (SEBT) program, including eligibility guidelines and SEBT benefit details.

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## Introduction to Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (SEBT)

The SEBT program is a U.S. federal assistance program designed to address the issue of food insecurity among students during the summer months when they do not have access to school meals. The program aims to provide additional nutritional support to eligible students who have received SNAP, KTAP, and/or Kinship Care for at least one (1) month since July 1st, 2024, and students who are deemed income eligible through an approved SEBT application. During the academic year, the National School Lunch Program provides nutritious meals to students. The SEBT program seeks to bridge this gap by providing benefits that can be used to purchase food, helping ensure that students have access to sufficient and healthy meals during the summer break.

## SEBT Eligibility

The following students are considered automatically eligible for SEBT benefits:

- Students aged 6-17 as of August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 who have received SNAP, KTAP, and/or Kinship Care for at least one (1) month since July 1st, 2024 are eligible and will automatically receive benefits. You do not need to submit an application.

Students that do not fall into the above category, and are within the income eligibility limits, can apply for SEBT benefits online.

- Online SEBT benefit applications can be completed by using self service capabilities located at <https://KYSEBT.ky.gov/> or can be accessed through <https://kynect.ky.gov/benefits/>. This application will be available starting on October 1, 2024.
- These are the income guidelines that will be used to determine SEBT eligibility:

**2024-25 School Year**

*Effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.*

Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Each Additional Member
Income Limit	\$2,322	\$3,152	\$3,981	\$4,810	\$5,640	\$6,469	\$7,299	\$8,128	+ \$830

Applications submitted on or before August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 are considered for Summer 2025 SEBT benefits. If an application submitted on or before August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 is approved, benefits are issued within seven (7) business days of approval. Applications submitted on or after August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 are considered for Summer 2026 SEBT benefits. If an application submitted on or after August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 is approved benefits will not be received until Summer 2026.

Receiving SEBT does not affect you or your student’s immigration status. The public charge rule does not apply to SEBT benefits. Also, the SEBT program does not ask for immigration status and does not use immigration status to determine eligibility.

### SEBT and Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT)

Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) was a program authorized in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to compensate for meals that students would have received at school or childcare. P-EBT ended with the Public Health Emergency (PHE) in summer 2023.

SEBT is a new permanent federal program that automatically enrolls students who have received SNAP, KTAP, and/or Kinship Care for at least one (1) month since July 1st, 2024. These students do not need to apply. Financially eligible students, who have not received one of the above benefits, should apply [here](#). SEBT aims to provide eligible students with increased access to nutritious meals during the summer months when school is not in session.

## Where SEBT Benefits can be Used

SEBT benefits can be used at any location where Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) is accepted. The benefits can be used to buy almost any food item, with the exception of ready-to-eat hot foods. The following items **cannot** be purchased with SEBT: tobacco, alcoholic beverages, pet foods, soap or other household products, medicines, gasoline, etc.

## EBT Card Use

Your child's SEBT benefits will be added as a one-time issuance to your household's EBT card. If your household does not already have an EBT card, you will receive a new card by mail when your case has been processed and approved.

- If you previously had an EBT card that you no longer possess, you need to call and request a new EBT card. A new EBT card will not be sent automatically.

## Replace your EBT Card

If you need a new card and:

- Your address has not changed since you received your card you can request a replacement card by contacting EBT Customer Service at 888-979-9949.
- Your address has changed since you received your card contact the DCBS call center at 855306-8959.

## EBT Card Activation

To activate a new card, call EBT customer Service 888-979-9949. You need to have the card number, the last four (4) digits of card holder's social security number, their date of birth, and zip code.

## PINs

EBT cards require a Personal Identification Number (PIN), a four (4) digit code, in order to be used. To set up or change your EBT card PIN, you need to:

- Call EBT Customer Service at 888-979-9949. This number can also be found on the back of your EBT card.
- Select your preferred language.
- Enter the 16-digit number from the front of the card.
- Choose a PIN that is easy for you to remember.
- Provide the last four (4) digits of the cardholder's Social Security Number.

## Benefits Expiration Information

A student's SEBT benefits remain available for 122 days. After the 122-day period, SEBT Benefits will no longer be available.

## Trafficking & Penalties of SEBT

Trafficking of the SEBT program includes but is not limited to:

1. Selling or trading benefits: This includes selling your benefits for cash, other items or trading them with someone else.
2. Buying ineligible items: SEBT benefits are meant to be used for specific eligible food items. Using them to buy ineligible items such as alcohol, tobacco, non-food items, or ready-to-eat hot foods.
3. Using someone else's benefits: Using benefits that have been issued to someone else without their permission.
4. Providing false information: Providing false information on your application to receive benefits is considered fraud and is a program violation.

The penalties for misuse of the SEBT program may include:

1. Disqualification from the program: In cases of misuse, the Individual may be disqualified from the program, either temporarily or permanently.
2. Legal action: If the misuse is found to be fraud or another criminal activity, legal action may be taken. This may result in fines, imprisonment, or both.
3. Repayment of benefits: If benefits have been misused, the individual will be required to repay the value of the misused benefits.
4. Loss of future benefits: If an Individual is found to be misusing benefits, they may lose their eligibility for future benefits.

Please note the exact penalties will depend on the specific circumstances of the misuse. If you suspect misuse or fraud, you should report it to the fraud hotline at 800-372-2970.

## Disclosure Information

As a person receiving SEBT, you have certain rights. You have the right to:

1. Begin the process of applying for SEBT the same day you contact a DCBS office.
2. Receive SEBT or be notified that you do not qualify for the program.
3. Have a fair hearing if you disagree with an action taken on your application. At a fair hearing you will be able to discuss your disagreement with an impartial hearing officer to receive a final ruling.

## USDA statement of non-discrimination

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), religious creed, disability, age, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the agency (state or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (833) 6201071, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to: mail:

Food and Nutrition Service, USDA

1320 Braddock Place, Room 334

Alexandria, VA 22314; or fax:

(833)256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or email:

[FNSCIVILRIGHTSCOMPLAINTS@usda.gov](mailto:FNSCIVILRIGHTSCOMPLAINTS@usda.gov)

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