



Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Questions and Answers

A guide for

SNAP Households

Families receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits

and

Non-SNAP Households

Families who do not receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits



1. What is the P-EBT Program?

The P-EBT Program was implemented as a result of the federal public health emergency declaration for COVID-19. It was enacted by Congress in March 2020 through the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and was extended for the 2020-2021 school year by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. The P-EBT Program provides food assistance on an EBT card to families with children who lost access to free or reduced-price school meals because of school closures or reduced in-person attendance caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Who is eligible for P-EBT benefits?

Children enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade at a Delaware school are eligible for P-EBT if:

- 1) The child is certified either directly, through categorical eligibility, or through an application to receive free or reduced-price school meals for the current school year or attends a school where all students receive free school meals as part of the National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program AND
- 2) The child is not able to receive free or reduced-price meals at school because they are participating in remote learning due to school closures or reduced in-person school attendance or hours during the pandemic.

Families are eligible to receive P-EBT benefits for each child in their household who qualifies for the P-EBT Program based on these two conditions.

The Division of Social Services receives P-EBT eligibility and attendance information from Delaware schools. The Division of Social Service does not determine eligibility for P-EBT.

3. My child lives in Delaware but goes to school in another state. Is my child eligible for Delaware's P-EBT Program?

No, only children who attend school in Delaware and receive free or reduced-price school meals are eligible for Delaware's P-EBT Program. If P-EBT benefits are available in the state in which your child attends school, your child may be eligible for P-EBT benefits from that state.

4. My child goes to school in Delaware but lives in another state. Is my child eligible for Delaware's P-EBT Program?

If your child currently attends school in Delaware and receives free or reduced-price school meals, then your child is eligible for Delaware's P-EBT Program.

5. Do I have to apply for P-EBT benefits?

No, you do not have to apply for P-EBT benefits. Families that are eligible for P-EBT are automatically enrolled in the P-EBT Program.

The Division of Social Services and the Department of Education are using information collected from Delaware schools to determine which children are eligible for P-EBT benefits. The information includes children who are currently eligible for free or reduced-price meals and children who attend a school where all students receive free meals.

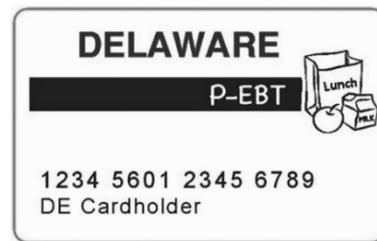
6. How will I receive my P-EBT benefits?

P-EBT benefits will automatically be loaded onto SNAP EBT cards and P-EBT cards. The P-EBT benefits for all eligible children in your household will be loaded to your card in monthly installments (see the Monthly P-EBT Benefit Schedule).

SNAP EBT Card



P-EBT Card



- SNAP households will receive their P-EBT benefits on their existing SNAP EBT card.
- Non-SNAP households who received P-EBT before will receive P-EBT benefits on the P-EBT card that was mailed to them in the spring or fall of 2020.
- Newly eligible Non-SNAP households will receive a new P-EBT card in the mail. The P-EBT card will be mailed on the benefit issuance date and may take up to 1-4 weeks to be delivered to the address on file with the school. The P-EBT card will come with information on how to activate the card and create a Personal Identification Number (PIN).

7. How much in P-EBT benefits will I receive?

Families will receive \$6.82 for each school day that their child did not receive meals at school because the school was closed or the child was participating in remote learning.

The P-EBT benefit amount equals the federal reimbursement rate for breakfast, lunch, and a snack of \$6.82 per child per eligible school day. Households will receive P-EBT benefits for all eligible children in their home in monthly issuances. Households will not receive P-EBT for the days that their children attended school in-person and received meals at school.

DSS uses information collected from Delaware schools to determine eligibility and attendance for children. P-EBT benefits for the 2020-2021 school year are based on each child’s attendance record, so benefit amounts will vary by child and month.

P-EBT Benefit Calculation Per Child

$$\$6.82 \times \text{Number of Remote Learning Days per Month} = \text{Monthly P-EBT Benefit Amount}$$

8. When will I receive my P-EBT benefits?

P-EBT benefits for August and September 2020 were previously issued. Eligible households will receive benefits for October 2020 – June 2021. DSS will begin issuing benefits on **Monday, March 29, 2021** for the months of October and November 2020. Benefits will be available on recipients’ EBT cards the next day.

The dates that benefits will be issued to individual households depend on when DSS receives eligibility and attendance data from each school. Some households may experience a delay in receiving benefits, and benefits may become available within 1-2 weeks from the first issuance date. The date range that households may receive monthly benefits is listed in the schedule below.

P-EBT benefit month	Date benefits will be loaded to EBT cards <i>*Households will receive one benefit issuance during each issuance period</i>
October 2020 & November 2020	March 29, 2021, to April 15, 2021
December 2020 & January 2021	April 22, 2021, to May 6, 2021
February 2021 & March 2021	May 13, 2021, to May 27, 2021
April 2021 & May 2021	June 3, 2021, to June 17, 2021
June 2021	July 1, 2021

P-EBT issuance dates may change. Check Delaware’s P-EBT website for up-to-date information: www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dss/pebt.html

9. Will my family continue to be eligible to participate in the school meal program provided by the Department of Education if we receive P-EBT benefits?

Yes, your family may continue to pick-up meals from the Department of Education’s Student Nutrition Sites located throughout Delaware. You can find Student Nutrition Site information at www.doe.k12.de.us.

10. If I accept P-EBT benefits, will my SNAP benefits be affected?

P-EBT benefits are additional food assistance and will not affect SNAP benefits.

11. Will I receive a P-EBT card for each child in my household?

For newly eligible households, you may receive one or more P-EBT card(s) loaded with the P-EBT benefits for all eligible children in your household. Most SNAP households will receive their P-EBT benefits on their SNAP EBT card. Some newly eligible SNAP households and Non-SNAP households will receive a new P-EBT card.

12. What should I do when I receive my P-EBT card in the mail?

Follow the instructions that come with your P-EBT card to activate your card and to create your private Personal Identification Number (PIN). Treat your PIN as you would your credit/debit card PIN. Do not share it with others.

13. Do I have to accept P-EBT benefits?

No, you are not required to use the P-EBT benefits. If you do not wish to participate in the P-EBT Program, please immediately destroy the P-EBT card that was mailed to you by cutting up the card and securely disposing of it. It is illegal to buy, sell, or trade an EBT card or benefits.

14. How do I use my P-EBT card and benefits?

Your SNAP EBT or P-EBT card operates like a debit card. You can purchase SNAP eligible foods at stores and farmer’s markets authorized to accept SNAP EBT. Select EBT, swipe your card, and then enter your private PIN.

15. What can I purchase with my P-EBT benefits?

Families can use their P-EBT benefits to purchase SNAP eligible food items, such as:

- Fruits and vegetables
- Meat, poultry, and fish
- Dairy products
- Breads and cereals
- Other foods, such as snack foods and non-alcoholic beverages
- Seeds and plants that produce food for the household to eat

16. What can I not purchase with my P-EBT benefits?

Families cannot use their P-EBT benefits to purchase:

- Beer, wine, liquor, cigarettes, or tobacco
- Vitamins, medicines, and supplements. If an item has a Supplement Facts label, it is considered a supplement and is not eligible for SNAP 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
- Any non-food items, such as:
 - Pet foods
 - Cleaning supplies, paper products, and other household supplies
 - Hygiene items and cosmetics

17. Where can I use my P-EBT benefits?

You can use your P-EBT benefits on your SNAP EBT or P-EBT card at any SNAP-authorized retailer, including most stores that sell groceries and participating farmer's markets. Go to www.fns.usda.gov/snap/retailer-locator to use the SNAP Retailer Locator tool. The SNAP Retailer Locator allows anyone to locate nearby SNAP-authorized retailers by entering a street address, city, and state or zip code. Enter your starting location and select a retailer or map point to get details and directions.

You can also use your P-EBT card to purchase groceries online from select retailers. Go to www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dss/snapopp.html for a list of retailers that accept EBT cards online in Delaware.

18. When will my P-EBT benefits expire?

P-EBT benefits are non-transferrable and will expire in 365 days. P-EBT benefits will carry over from month to month. If P-EBT benefits are not used within 365 days, they will automatically be removed from your EBT card.

19. How do I check my SNAP EBT or P-EBT card balance?

You can check your card balance at any time by going to www.ConnectEBT.com or calling 1-800-526-9099.

20. What should I do if I lose my SNAP EBT or P-EBT card or forget my PIN?

You can request a replacement card or select a new PIN by going to www.ConnectEBT.com or calling 1-800-526-9099.

21. Who can I contact if I would like to apply for free or reduced-price school meals?

Please contact the Nutrition Department for your child's school district, charter school, or private school for information on how to apply for free or reduced-price school meals. You may be able to apply online by going to your school district's or school's website. To find out if your school participates in the School Nutrition Program and offers free or reduced-price school meals, go to www.doe.k12.de.us/Page/2789 and click on School Nutrition Sponsor Contacts. Families will need to meet certain eligibility requirements to receive free or reduced-price school meals.

If your child attends a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school where all students receive free meals, you do not need to apply for free or reduced-priced school meals. All students at CEP schools are automatically eligible for P-EBT benefits. A list of Delaware CEP schools can be found at

www.doe.k12.de.us/cms/lib/DE01922744/Centricity/Domain/149/CEP%20School%20List%20SY%202020-2021%208-31-20%20with%20SFA%20ID.pdf

General questions related to eligibility for free or reduced-price meals may be emailed to schoolnutrition@doe.k12.de.us.

22. Who can I contact if I have questions about Delaware's P-EBT Program or P-EBT benefits?

Please contact the Division of Social Services at **1-866-843-7212** if you have questions about the P-EBT Program.