



Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Questions and Answers School Year 2021-2022

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. The program was authorized by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 ([PL 116-127](#)), as amended by the Continuing Appropriations Act 2021 and Other Extensions Act ([PL 116-159](#)), the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021 ([PL 116-260](#)), and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 ([PL 117-2](#)). 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 or hours caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Who is eligible for P-EBT benefits?

Children enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) 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 Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) 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 the school was closed or the child had an excused absence or attended school virtually due to a COVID-related reason.

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 are certified for 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 is certified for 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.

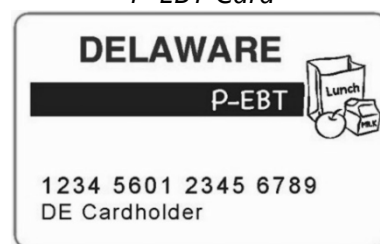
6. How will I receive my P-EBT benefits?

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 a previous school year.

- 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 \$7.10 for each school day that their child did not receive meals at school because the school was closed or the child had an excused absence or attended school virtually due to a COVID-related reason.

The P-EBT benefit amount equals the federal reimbursement rate for breakfast, lunch, and a snack of \$7.10 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 or for absent days that are not due to COVID.**

DSS uses information collected from Delaware schools to determine eligibility and attendance for children. P-EBT benefits for the 2021-2022 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

$$\$7.10 \times \text{Number of COVID-related absent days and/or virtual school days} = \text{Monthly P-EBT benefit amount}$$

Children attending a fully virtual school program

An eligible child who is attending a fully virtual school program will receive a standard P-EBT benefit amount of \$127.80 each month that the child attends school virtually for the full month.

The benefit amount equals \$7.10 x 18 school days per month.

Schools that are unable to track COVID-related absences

Some Delaware schools are unable to track COVID-related absences in their attendance systems.

If your child attends a school that is unable to track COVID-related absences, your child will receive P-EBT benefits for excused absences of 5 or more consecutive school days. Please contact your child’s school if your child did not receive P-EBT benefits for an excused absence or virtual school day due to a COVID-related reason.

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

DSS will begin issuing benefits in March 2022.

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 on a later issuance date.

P-EBT Benefit Month	Date Benefits will be Available on EBT Cards
August 2021 & September 2021	March 4, 2022
October 2021 & November 2021	April 8, 2022
December 2021 & January 2022	May 6, 2022
February 2022 & March 2022	June 3, 2022
April 2022 & May 2022	July 1, 2022
June 2022	July 15, 2022

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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

15. 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

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. 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.

20. 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

https://www.doe.k12.de.us/cms/lib/DE01922744/Centricity/Domain/149/CEP%20School%20List%20SY%202021-2022%20with%20SFA%20ID%20no%20enrolled_ident.pdf

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

21. 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.

22. Who can I contact if my child did not receive or is missing P-EBT benefits?

Please contact your child’s school if your child did not receive P-EBT benefits for an excused absence or virtual school day due to a COVID-related reason. Your child’s school must report this information to DSS.