

Kentucky Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT)?

Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) provides a stimulus to households with children eligible for free or reduced-price school meals through National School Lunch Program (NSLP) during the COVID-19 Response. P-EBT provides a benefits card that 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 schools or private schools offering the USDA National School Lunch Program that qualify for free or reduced-price meals are eligible if:

Students who 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 the USDA National School Lunch Program

How do I apply for the P-EBT Stimulus?

There is **no application required**. Eligible students will automatically be approved.

Can I opt-out of the P-EBT Stimulus?

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

How much is the P-EBT Stimulus?

P-EBT Stimulus amounts will vary and are specific to the most common learning model in the student's school district. The maximum rates provided in Kentucky will be used, 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 Stimulus 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

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If the student's school district is in-person full time, they are **not eligible** for P-EBT stimulus

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 1-855-306-8959. Caller must identify the student by full name, date of birth (DOB), and State Student ID (SSID) number before any information will be provided.

Households with children in private school can call the school for their SSID number, and then call 1-855-306-8959 for any change requests.

How will I receive my P-EBT Stimulus?

Households already receiving SNAP benefits:

- Households eligible for the P-EBT Stimulus (see [here](#) for criteria) that already receive SNAP benefits will be issued P-EBT Stimulus benefits on the existing EBT card.
- 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 the P-EBT Stimulus in Aug/Sept will receive their benefits on the previously issued card.

What months does the P-EBT Stimulus cover?

For the months of 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. See below for a calendar of when to expect payments for a particular month.

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

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How can I get help with P-EBT?

Please call 1-855-306-8959 and select Healthcare and Food Benefits option if you need assistance.

What if I need a P-EBT card, or need a new P-EBT card because I threw away or lost my P-EBT card?

If your address has changed since you last received a P-EBT card, call the help desk at 1-855-306-8959 to request a new/replacement card.

If your address has not changed since you last received a P-EBT card, call the automated line at 1-888-979-9949.

Is the P-EBT Stimulus a public assistance program?

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

Can I still pick up meals at student's school while receiving the P-EBT Stimulus?

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

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

No, the P-EBT Stimulus 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 National School Lunch Program are eligible for the P-EBT Stimulus Package.

Will Head Start students receive the P-EBT Stimulus Package?

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

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 Stimulus benefits on the Head of Household's card, even if the family has more than one student eligible for the P-EBT Stimulus benefits.

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Households not receiving SNAP benefits:

- P-EBT benefits will be issued to students' existing P-EBT cards or on a new card 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 should be provided to the parent or guardian purchasing food for the child.

What can I buy with the P-EBT Stimulus Package?

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 9 months.

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

No. P-EBT benefits are an additional service and will 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 will not be 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?

