

March 24, 2021

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The State of Illinois is approved to provide new Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer Program (P-EBT) benefits to all eligible Illinois students. Families in our district may qualify for P-EBT because we are a school district that participates in the National School Lunch Program's Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) where every student receives a breakfast and lunch at no cost. You do not need to complete an application to receive these benefits. Please note that citizenship status does not affect eligibility.

What action needs to be taken now? At this time, it is very important for all families to ensure that the mailing address on file at your enrolling school is current. A complete mailing address will be needed to receive the P-EBT issuance in the near future.

What is P-EBT? The purpose of P-EBT is to provide food assistance to families with students who would have received free or reduced lunch while attending school but are not receiving these meals in school due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Who is eligible for P-EBT benefits? The following students are eligible for P-EBT benefits for School Year 2020-21.

- Students must be enrolled in an eligible NSLP participating Illinois school and;
- Students must be determined eligible to receive free/reduced lunch for the 2020-21 school year or enrolled in a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school and;
- Students are P-EBT eligible on school days in which a reimbursable meal was not provided to the student to consume at school. If "grab and go meals" are provided to students, this does not exclude these students from participating or being eligible for the P-EBT program.

When will I receive the benefits? The Department of Human Services should begin issuing new P-EBT cards to all known eligible students after March 25, 2021. Please note that all eligible students will receive benefits for all eligible school days, back to the beginning of this school year.

It is my understanding that P-EBT cards will be issued after the 25th of each month during the course of the Covid-19 Pandemic and will be delivered to your home address in a blank envelope. **It is important that you check your mail carefully to ensure you do not accidentally discard your P-EBT card.**

I hope you and your family have a pleasant Spring Break. We are excited to welcome children back to in-person learning Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. beginning April 5, 2021.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jean Neal, Superintendent

Illinois Begins Work on P-EBT Plan for Children in Child Care

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently released new guidance to SNAP state agencies and child nutrition state agencies on the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer Program (P-EBT). This new guidance addresses added P-EBT benefits for children in child care.

The Illinois State Board of Education is working closely with the Illinois Department of Human Services to develop a state plan. We will announce more details as soon as possible, once the State of Illinois' plan is created and then reviewed and approved by the USDA.

No action is necessary at this time for child care centers or families. However, more information is available on the USDA's [P-EBT Guidance for Schools and Child Care webpage](#) if anyone would like to review. This includes the memo sent to SNAP state agencies (IDPH) and child nutrition state agencies (ISBE), as well as Questions and Answers.

The ISBE P-EBT website, www.isbe.net/pebt, will eventually expand to include information for the child care component of P-EBT. The website currently includes materials for Illinois' P-EBT plan for schools, which is approved and under implementation.

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