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802-372-6921 • P.O. BOX 54, GRAND ISLE, VT 05458 • WWW.GISU.ORG

June 10, 2022

Dear Household,

The State of Vermont will be issuing Pandemic-Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) cards to help with students' food costs over the summer months. P-EBT benefits are funds provided on an electronic benefit transfer card that a household may use to purchase food items at grocery stores, convenience stores, online retailers and farmers markets where 3SquaresVT (SNAP) benefits are accepted. For households receiving 3SquaresVT, P-EBT benefits will be added to existing EBT cards. Households who have already received a P-EBT card this school year or last year will have the Summer P-EBT benefit added to their existing card. If you no longer have your card, DCF can send you a replacement card. Instructions will be included in the benefit notice letters going out in August. For other households, you will receive a special P-EBT card from the Vermont Department for Children and Families (DCF) for students who qualify. Households will receive a one-time allotment of \$391 per eligible student. The Summer P-EBT benefit will be issued in early August 2022 along with benefits for the rest of School Year 21-22.

Eligibility for the benefit depends on a child's eligibility for free and reduced school meals. All children are able to receive free meals this year because of special COVID-19 waivers obtained by the State. However, to receive the P-EBT benefit, students must either have an approved free and reduced meal application on file or have been directly certified for free school meals. Students may be directly certified for free meals if the household received 3SquaresVT or Reach Up benefits or because the student is state-placed foster, migrant, homeless, runaway or participates in a Head Start program. If you are not already qualified for free and reduced price meals, you may still submit a free and reduced meal application now to see if you are eligible for the Summer P-EBT benefit. Forward Food Applications to Jo-Ann Tier for processing. Applications submitted before July 1, 2022, may also qualify your student for P-EBT benefits for any days that they missed school for a COVID-related reason this past school year. If you don't qualify now, but your situation changes over the summer, you may still submit an application until August 19, 2022, to see if you are eligible for the Summer P-EBT benefit. Only students enrolled in school as of June 2022 will be eligible for the Summer P-EBT benefit.

To issue the benefit, we need to have your correct mailing address and head of household. If you want to make corrections to any of these, contact Jo-Ann Tier at 802-372-8866. You can find out more about P-EBT benefits by visiting the <u>Department for Children and Families' P-EBT website</u>

Sincerely,

Robert Gess

Business Manager

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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 responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or 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/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, 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 USDA by:

1. mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

2. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

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