



Ovid-Elsie Area Schools

Office of the Superintendent

8989 E. Colony Road | Elsie, MI 48831-9725

Phone: 989-834-2271 | Fax: 989-862-5887

www.ovidelsie.org

Dear Marauder Families,

Michigan is the first state to provide food to families affected by school closings caused by COVID-19. Families with children who received free or reduced-cost breakfast or lunches at school qualify for this new program.

Due to the fact that Ovid-Elsie Area Schools participates in the free and reduced breakfast and lunch program, many families will qualify to receive money for food from the State of Michigan. Marauder families may have already received a letter in the mail from the State of Michigan regarding food benefits.

Here is a summary of information:

- If the student was already receiving (SNAP) benefits, they will automatically receive the P-EBT benefits on their card.
- If the student is eligible based on Free or Reduced-Price Meal the pre-loaded P-EBT card will come in the mail and will be in the ***oldest school-aged child's name, not the parents name***. Keep the card for ongoing benefits you may receive. **MDDHS is processing cards in batches through mid-May.**
- The benefit amount for March/April is \$193.80 per child and will be available by the end of April.
- The benefit amount for May/June is \$182.40 per child and will be available by the end of May.
- To activate the card, call the phone number on the back of the card. You will need the EBT card number on the front of the card, your zip code, and the date of birth of the oldest child in your household. You will need to set a four-digit pin number.

You may go to this link for more information:

Dr. Ryan Cunningham
Superintendent

Craig Coleman
Director of Operations

Mary Weiderer
Business Manager

Sonya Latz
Administrative Assistant



Ovid-Elsie Area Schools

Office of the Superintendent

8989 E. Colony Road | Elsie, MI 48831-9725

Phone: 989-834-2271 | Fax: 989-862-5887

www.ovidelsie.org

https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254_99536---,00.html

The Press Release in its entirety follows this letter.

Wishing you all the best!

Dr. Ryan L. Cunningham, Superintendent, Ovid-Elsie Area Schools

Dr. Ryan Cunningham
Superintendent

Craig Coleman
Director of Operations

Mary Weiderer
Business Manager

Sonya Latz
Administrative Assistant



Ovid-Elsie Area Schools

Office of the Superintendent

8989 E. Colony Road | Elsie, MI 48831-9725

Phone: 989-834-2271 | Fax: 989-862-5887

www.ovidelsie.org

Michigan is First State to Provide Food to Families Affected by School Closings Caused by COVID-19; Families with children who received free, reduced-cost lunches at school qualify for new program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LANSING, MICH. Michigan has become the first state in the country to gain federal approval of a program that will provide nutritious food to children who were affected by school closings due to COVID-19.

The Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer Program (P-EBT) provides temporary funding to address emergency food needs and avert financial hardship for families affected by the pandemic.

The food assistance benefits will go to Michigan families with students ages 5-18 who are enrolled in the Michigan Department of Education program for students eligible for free or reduced-price school meals and will reach approximately 895,000 students. This includes families currently receiving Food Assistance Program benefits as well as those not currently enrolled in the program.

These additional benefits will fortify and supplement the important efforts that local school districts will continue to put forth, providing nutritious school meals to children at over 2,000 stationary locations and nearly 700 mobile sites throughout Michigan.

“I am proud that Michigan is the first state to receive federal approval for this program to put healthy food on the table for families that need them,” said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. “The spread of COVID-19 has had a profound impact on our state. My administration will continue to work around the clock to help Michiganders through this difficult time and slow the spread of this virus.”

Dr. Ryan Cunningham
Superintendent

Craig Coleman
Director of Operations

Mary Weiderer
Business Manager

Sonya Latz
Administrative Assistant



Ovid-Elsie Area Schools

Office of the Superintendent

8989 E. Colony Road | Elsie, MI 48831-9725

Phone: 989-834-2271 | Fax: 989-862-5887

www.ovidelsie.org

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) received authorization from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Services to provide the additional food assistance.

“Children should never go hungry. Yet because of COVID-19, it is a risk unlike at any time in generations,” said MDHHS Director Robert Gordon. “I am glad that Michigan will be the first state to deliver SNAP benefits to families that previously received free or reduced-price lunches, whether or not they were SNAP-eligible. In a time of terrible need, it will be a small, good thing for nearly a million Michigan children.”

Families not currently receiving food assistance benefits will receive an EBT card.

Eligible families not currently receiving food assistance benefits will receive in the mail a pre-loaded Electronic Benefits Transaction (EBT) card – known as a Bridge Card – issued under the name of the oldest student in the household.

The amount of EBT benefits will be no less than the total amount of free or reduced-cost school lunch benefits that the family would have received during the time that school is closed. The benefits will include \$193.80 per eligible student to cover the months of March and April and an additional \$182.40 per student to cover May and June combined.

Benefits for all eligible school-aged children in the home will be loaded onto this one EBT card. Prior to receiving the card, families will get a letter from MDHHS describing how to use their EBT card, how to set up their PIN, and other pertinent information about food assistance benefits. EBT cards can be used much like a debit card for food items only purchased in-person at SNAP retailers

Families who are not already receiving food assistance benefits should start receiving MDHHS notices in the mail late next week, with the EBT cards arriving by the first week of May.



Ovid-Elsie Area Schools

Office of the Superintendent

8989 E. Colony Road | Elsie, MI 48831-9725

Phone: 989-834-2271 | Fax: 989-862-5887

www.ovidelsie.org

Families currently receiving food assistance benefits will receive additional benefits on their EBT Bridge Cards.

Eligible families currently receiving food assistance benefits will be issued a supplement to their existing benefits. Supplemental benefits can be used as families would typically use their EBT card. Families who already receive food assistance benefits should begin receiving their additional benefits next week – with the payments being staggered over a 10-day period.

Families can use their pre-loaded EBT cards at any retailer that accepts Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) EBT benefits. You can find a list of SNAP retailers on the [SNAP Retailers website](#).

Information around coronavirus outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.