

LOUISIANA REOPENS 2019-2020 P-EBT APPLICATIONS FOR FAMILIES WHO DID NOT APPLY IN MAY AND JUNE

Louisiana is giving families another opportunity to receive financial benefits from free and reduced-price school meals missed when schools closed in 2019-2020 due to the pandemic. Eligible families who did not apply for the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program in May and June can take advantage of the second application window that opens for three weeks, beginning at 8 a.m. September 8.

Who Qualifies:

1. Families of children who normally receive free or reduced-price meals at Choudrant Elementary and Choudrant High are eligible for the program.
2. All children who attend a Cypress Springs Elementary, Dubach School, Glenview Elementary, Hillcrest Elementary, IA Lewis, Early Childhood Center, Ruston Elementary, Ruston High School, Ruston Junior High, and Simsboro High School regardless of income.

This second application period of the 2019-2020 P-EBT is only for families who did not apply to receive P-EBT benefits during the initial window in the spring.

These one-time benefits, which total \$285 per child, intend to cover 50 school days, from the onset of statewide school facility closures in March through the end of the 2019-2020 academic year.

****** Parents who applied for free meals in May, after the P-EBT program was announced, will receive \$91.20 per eligible child, which covers the cost of meals for 16 school days in May.

The application will be available in a [P-EBT portal](#) on the [Louisiana Department of Education website](#). The portal opens September 8 at 8 a.m., and the deadline to apply is September 29 at 5 p.m.

The [online application](#) is simple, requiring only a name, address, date of birth, school district and school. Social security numbers, while helpful, are not required. The information submitted by the family, however, must exactly match the information on file with the school system in order for the application to successfully submit.

Once families complete an [application](#) in the portal, the computer system will notify them of their successful submission. Upon verification, the [Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services](#) will then request a P-EBT debit card for the household to be loaded with a one-time benefit. Applicants can expect their cards within 30 days of their application. Benefits will be available for 365 days.

P-EBT is different from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which is issued on a Louisiana Purchase EBT card to approved low-income households. However, the P-EBT card can be used to purchase the same eligible food for the household as can be purchased with a SNAP card. All SNAP families with qualifying students are also eligible to receive P-EBT benefits if they apply, and P-EBT also is available to non-SNAP families if they meet the P-EBT guidelines.

P-EBT is not related to loss from Hurricane Laura. Eligibility is solely based on student participation in the free or reduced-price meal program.

The P-EBT program was authorized by Congress in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020. In obtaining federal approval for P-EBT, Louisiana joined more than 22 other states participating in the program.

For more information, consult a list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) or contact the LAHelpU Customer Service Center at LaHELPU.DCFS@la.gov or 1-888-524-3578. Families who need food assistance can also call 211 to inquire about food pantries and other available resources in their communities.