

Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) FAQ

P-EBT Round 2 - School Year 2020-21

- 1. Will children attending school remotely in the 2020-21 school year receive more P-EBT benefits?**

The State of Indiana has received approval from the USDA to issue additional P-EBT benefits to eligible students enrolled at schools operating remotely during the 2020-21 school year.

These funds will only be issued to children enrolled in schools operating remotely or in a hybrid model for at least five consecutive school days. Students eligible for P-EBT will receive funds on new P-EBT cards that should arrive in the mail by the end of November.

Eligibility

- 2. Will using P-EBT impact my immigration status?**

No. Using your P-EBT card does NOT impact you or your child's immigration status.

- 3. I have never used (SNAP) before, or I'm not currently. Can I use P-EBT?**

Yes, if your child qualifies for free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program or goes to a school that provides free meals to all students, and submitted information for eligibility to this program, you will receive a P-EBT card in the mail. You do not need to enroll in the program to use the funds.

SNAP provides a monthly benefit to help buy food. To learn more about eligibility and how to apply for SNAP and other DFR benefits, visit fssabenefits.in.gov.

- 4. Are children who attend private, charter, or parochial schools eligible? What about students attending Career Tech schools?**

If a parochial, private, charter, or Career Tech school participates in the National School Lunch Program and the child receives free/reduced-price meals at school, the child is eligible for P-EBT. NOTE: All parochial, private, or charter schools do **not** participate in the National School Lunch Program.

Please contact your school directly to find out if the school participates in the National School Lunch Program. If a child's home school district participates in the National School Lunch Program, but the private, parochial or charter school they attend does not, the child will not be eligible for P-EBT. P-EBT is intended to

replace meals that children would have received at school if there were not current public health emergency related closures.

Getting the P-EBT Funds

5. How will I receive the P-EBT funds if I am currently receiving SNAP?

Funds for P-EBT benefits will be issued on a new P-EBT card. P-EBT cards will be mailed to the address provided by the school. P-EBT cards will be mailed beginning early October and will conclude mid-October.

P-EBT card will arrive via mail with instructions on how to use the card. You will receive one card for each eligible child. You do not need to apply.

6. How will I receive the P-EBT funds if I am not receiving SNAP?

Funds for P-EBT benefits will be issued on a new P-EBT card for all eligible students regardless if the individuals are receiving SNAP. Cards will be issued beginning early October and will conclude mid-October. One card will be issued for each eligible child.

Using Your Card

7. What type of envelope will the P-EBT card be mailed in, so I don't throw it away?

P-EBT cards will be mailed in a plain white envelope with a windowpane showing the child's name and address.

8. How do I activate my P-EBT card?

Instructions for activating the card will be in the envelope with the P-EBT Card.

9. I am having trouble setting up my P-EBT card.

Call the number on the back of the card for help.

10. How can I check my balance?

You can call the number on the back of your P-EBT card to check your balance.

11. Where can I use the P-EBT card?

You can use the card anywhere SNAP benefits are accepted.

12. What can I buy with the P-EBT card?

You can buy most household grocery items, including:

- Fresh or frozen fruits and vegetables
- Meat, dairy, and eggs
- Rice, beans, pasta, and other dry goods
- Breads and cereals
- Seeds to grow your own food

[Click here for a complete list of approved food items.](#)

13. What items can I NOT buy with the P-EBT card?

Items you can NOT buy include:

- Prepared meals sold hot and ready to eat
- Diapers
- Cleaning products, toilet paper, paper towels, etc.
- Medicine or supplements
- Restaurant food
- Pet food
- Alcohol and tobacco products

[Click here for a complete list of approved food items.](#)

14. Can I use the P-EBT at farmers markets that accept EBT?

Yes, P-EBT cards can be used anywhere that SNAP/EBT cards are accepted. This includes Farmers Markets.

Other Questions

1. Does P-EBT replace grab and go meal sites?

No, P-EBT funds supplement grab and go meal sites; they do not replace them.

2. Why should I use P-EBT funds?

P-EBT helps families with children buy food during the public health emergency. It can help free up other funds to pay for things like housing, childcare, and transportation. The program also helps support Indiana's local economies, including our grocery stores and their employees during this challenging time.

3. I've used all the funds on my card. Should I throw it out?

No! Save your card(s).

4. What if I do not use all the funds?

The funds will carry over from month to month and will only be removed from the card if unused after one year. You can use the funds when necessary.

5. I don't want to use my P-EBT funds. What do I do?

You may destroy the card when you receive it.

6. Are P-EBT funds in addition to other EBT funds, like SNAP?

Yes, P-EBT funds are in addition to any SNAP benefits a family may be receiving. It does not matter whether the family already receives the maximum SNAP benefit amount for their household size. P-EBT is a replacement for missed school meals and it is not the same as SNAP.