

ATTENTION: PARENTS

Notice to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) & Temporary Assistance Households with Children Eligible for Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Food Benefits

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) will issue P-EBT food benefits to **all** eligible children for the 2020-21 school year.

What are P-EBT food benefits? P-EBT food benefits are being provided to families to help cover the cost of meals their children would have received at school if not for reduced in-person learning due to the pandemic.

While P-EBT food benefits are not SNAP benefits, they can only be used to purchase the same food items that can be purchased with SNAP benefits. A detailed list of food items that may be purchased with food benefits can be found at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/eligible-food-items/>.

Who is eligible for P-EBT food benefits? All children who receive free school lunches through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) are eligible for P-EBT food benefits if their school has been operating with reduced in-person attendance due to COVID-19 during the 2020-21 school year. This includes Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) schools and any private, prekindergarten, parochial and charter schools that participate in the NSLP.

How and when will my child receive their P-EBT food benefits? Eligible children currently receiving SNAP or Temporary Assistance (cash) will have their P-EBT food benefits automatically issued to their household's EBT card. You do not need to apply. You can check for your family's P-EBT food benefit availability by visiting www.connectebt.com or by calling **1-888-328-6399** and checking the balance of your EBT SNAP account.

Eligible children will receive P-EBT food benefits for the 2020-2021 school year in **two payments**:

- The **first payment** of P-EBT food benefits for each month between September 2020 and March 2021 that an eligible child qualified for food benefits will begin being issued to all eligible **public school** children beginning in June.
- The **second payment** of P-EBT food benefits for each month between April and June 2021 that an eligible child qualified for food benefits will be issued to all eligible **public school** children after the first payments have been issued.
- OTDA anticipates that benefits for the entire period of benefit eligibility (September 2020 through June 2021) will be issued to eligible **non-public school** children beginning in September 2021.

We will continue to update our website at otda.ny.gov/SNAP-COVID-19 as additional information on P-EBT food benefit distribution becomes available.

IMPORTANT: Please be sure to hold on to your EBT card in the event that additional P-EBT food benefits are issued to your child in the future.

How much will my child receive? Eligible children will receive P-EBT food benefits based on the number of days their school was closed or operated with reduced in-person attendance due to COVID-19. There are two different amounts that an eligible child may receive:

- Children whose schools reported that their in-person school attendance was reduced by 1 to 12 days during a month, will receive **\$82** in P-EBT food benefits for that month.
- Children whose schools reported that their in-person school attendance was reduced for more than 12 days during a month, will receive **\$132** in P-EBT food benefits for that month.
- Children whose schools reported that their in-person attendance was not reduced during a month due to COVID will not receive a benefit for that month.

Please note, the P-EBT food benefit amount that eligible children receive is based on the availability of monthly in-person school attendance information provided by schools and school districts.

Questions? For answers to commonly asked P-EBT food benefit questions visit our website at otda.ny.gov/SNAP-COVID-19. You may also submit your questions in writing by visiting otda.ny.gov/PEBT-info and completing the P-EBT Information Form.