



## Pandemic EBT FAQs

### **Q: What is P-EBT?**

A: A new, a one-time benefit that gives families with school children an EBT card to purchase food.

### **Q: Am I eligible for P-EBT?**

A: You are eligible if your child is enrolled in an Indiana school and received free or reduced-price school meals if schools were open. This includes a child who attends a school that offers free school meals to all students (Community Eligibility Provision schools and districts).

### **Q: How much money will I receive?**

A: You will receive \$319 for each eligible child, which is about \$5.70 for each day that schools were closed due to the pandemic, unless you enrolled in Free & Reduced Lunch or SNAP after schools *closed, then you'll get a prorated amount.*

### **Q: How will I receive the benefit?**

A: If you have an existing EBT card that you use for SNAP benefits, your P-EBT benefits will be automatically added to that card. If you do not already have an EBT card, you will receive one in the mail with information on how to activate the card and use the benefits. Cards should be received by mid-June.

### **Q: Is there an application process?**

A: No. Children who received free or reduced-price school meals and households with school aged children will receive the benefits and do not need to apply.

### **Q: When will I receive the benefits?**

A: Benefits began loading at the end of May and will continue into June. Benefits are not being loaded in any alphabetical order; they are being loaded in batches. You may not receive benefits for all eligible children at the same time.

### **Q: Will this affect my ability to receive other benefits?**

A: No, it will not.

### **Q: Does this count against me under public charge?**



A: No, it does not. Using P-EBT benefits does not impact you or your child's immigration status. The public charge rule does not apply to P-EBT benefits. Even though P-EBT uses the same type of card as SNAP, Pandemic EBT is NOT SNAP benefits and is not considered in a public charge test.

**Q: How often will I receive these benefits for?**

A: P-EBT benefits are coming in one lump amount for the days of school meals missed. There will only be one disbursement.

**Q: Does P-EBT replace grab and go meal sites?**

A: No. P-EBT benefits supplement grab and go student meal sites. They do not replace them. You can find a meal site in your community through USDA's Meals 4 Kids Site Finder, or in Marion County using the Community Compass App.

**Q: Will I receive benefits for the days my kids have been out of school already?**

A: Yes, the benefits are retroactive from March 13<sup>th</sup> to the average date schools closed in Indiana, May 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Q: My household is newly eligible for SNAP and/or School Meals. Are we eligible to receive benefits?**

A: If you applied for SNAP and/or School Meals during the month of May you will receive a prorated benefit for that month only.

**Q: My household is eligible but has not yet received P-EBT benefits. Where can we find more information?**

A: You can call the Division of Family Resources hotline, **800-403-0864**.

**Q: What can P-EBT benefits be used to purchase?**

A: P-EBT benefits have the same uses and restrictions as SNAP benefits. The benefits can be used only for food purchases. For more information see: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/eligible-food-items>.

**Q: Are P-EBT benefits transferrable? Can I give my card to someone else to use?**

A: No. These benefits are only for your household.

**Q: If I don't need my P-EBT benefits what should I do?**



A: Save them just in case. They can be kept without activity for 6 months. Or you can cut up the P-EBT card you receive. The benefits will expunge from your account after a log period without activity.

**Q: Will foster children receive P-EBT?**

A: Yes.

**Q: If you don't currently receive snap but had an old card from a previous case will it be loaded to that card or be sent a new one?**

A: You will be sent a new P-EBT card.

**Q: will families have to present ID to use the P-EBT card?**

A: No.

# Attention Families Receiving Free and Reduced-Price School Meals:



## Families with children who receive free or reduced-cost lunches at school qualify for a new Pandemic EBT program

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

- P-EBT food assistance benefits will go to Indiana families with students ages 5-18 that are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals.
- This includes families currently receiving Food Assistance Program benefits, as well as those not currently enrolled in the program.
- No application is necessary for eligible families to receive P-EBT benefits. A card will be automatically mailed to you.
- Because your child is not in school right now, you **will** receive food assistance benefits.



## How it Works

*Eligible families will receive a Pandemic EBT card in the mail that can be used to purchase eligible food items anywhere SNAP/EBT cards are accepted. These additional food assistance benefits can be used the same way as families would typically use SNAP to purchase food items.*

- The EBT card and food benefit cannot be transferred to anyone else.
- Families who do not currently receive SNAP will receive an electronic benefits transfer card in the mail, along with instructions on how to activate and use their card.
- Families who already receive SNAP benefits will have the additional benefits applied to their SNAP accounts on their Hoosier Works EBT card.

