



2023 SUMMER P-EBT

FAQ

Q: What is P-EBT?

A: Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) is a special SNAP benefit that was issued to households with school age children who were eligible for free and reduced-price meals at school through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), but whose school was closed or had reduced hours due to COVID-19.

Q: What is Summer P-EBT Benefits?

A: Summer P-EBT benefits are referring to the continuation of P-EBT benefits for the summer months of July and August 2023.

Q: Who is eligible for Summer P-EBT benefits?

A: Summer P-EBT is being sent to all children who received free or reduced-price lunch through the NSLP while in school during the 2022-2023 academic year.

Q: What if my child will be newly eligible for reduced priced meals for the 2023-2024 school year?

A: If your student is not currently eligible but might be for the 2023-2024 school year, you are encouraged to complete a Meal Benefit application by June 30, 2023 in order to be eligible to receive Summer P-EBT benefits. The application can be found in the Documents, Resources and Links Library section of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) page on the RI Department of Education (RIDE) website:

<https://www.ride.ri.gov/CNP/NutritionPrograms/NationalSchoolLunchProgram.aspx#2138983-documents-resources-links-library>.

Q: How much can my child receive in Summer P-EBT benefits?

A: Each eligible child can receive a total, one-time lump sum of \$120 for July and August 2023.

Q: How will I receive my child's P-EBT benefits?

A: If you are receiving SNAP benefits, your P-EBT benefits will be added to your current SNAP EBT card. If you are not receiving SNAP benefits and you received these benefits on a P-EBT card during the 2022-2023 school year, your benefits will be issued to that same card. Benefits will be added to the same card each month so please keep your card.

Q: When can we expect to see the benefits added to my card?

A: The Summer P-EBT benefit for school age children will be issued sometime in August 2023. This is a one-time issuance for the months of July and August.

Q: What can I do if I lost my P-EBT card?

A: If you had a card before but no longer have it, you can call 1-888-979-9939 to request a new card.

Q: Is my child still eligible if we're not receiving SNAP benefits and did not receive P-EBT benefits during the school year because they were in school full time?

A: Yes, your child may still be eligible. You will receive a P-EBT card in the mail to the address on file with your child's school. You may receive more than one card if you have multiple children eligible for the benefit. Call the number on the back of the card to activate it. You will need to enter the card number, your zip code and the birthdate of your child. Be sure to keep the card. Benefits will be issued on that same card each month.

Q: Are summer P-EBT benefits tied to the learning model at my child's school or child care facility?

A: No, all NSLP-participating schools are considered closed for the summer period. Therefore, Rhode Island does not need to issue benefits in relation to a child's school operating status.

Q: Our household is enrolled in SNAP and we just welcomed a new baby during the summer period. Are they eligible to receive P-EBT benefits for the summer?

A: No. Unlike last year, Summer P-EBT will only be available for eligible school-age children and will not be available to children under age 6 receiving SNAP benefits.

Q: If my child's SNAP enrollment begins or ends during the summer of 2023, will they receive benefits?

A: Yes, as long as the child was eligible for free or reduced priced lunch during the school year, they will receive the entire P-EBT benefit for that summer. Students not currently eligible for free or reduced priced school meals must submit a [Meal Benefit Application](#) by June 30, 2023 in order to receive Summer P-EBT benefits.

Q: If my child graduated after the 2022–2023 academic year, will they receive P-EBT benefits for the summer of 2022?

A: Yes. If students received free or reduced priced lunch at a NSLP participating school and graduated at the end of the 2022– 2023 academic year, they will receive Summer P-EBT benefits for the summer (July and August) of 2023.

Q: My child is homeschooled. Are they eligible for Summer P-EBT?

A. No, homeschooled students are not eligible for Summer P-EBT.

Q: My child attends a fully virtual school that does not participate in the National School Lunch Program. Are they eligible for Summer P-EBT?

A. No, only students who were attending a NSLP participating school and were eligible for free or reduced priced meals are eligible for Summer P-EBT.

Q: Does this count against me as a public charge?

A: No, it does not. Using P-EBT benefits does not impact an individual's immigration status. The public charge rule does not apply to P-EBT benefits.

Q: Can I opt out of P-EBT benefits?

A: Your participation in the program is voluntary. If you choose not to participate in the program, please dispose of your card by cutting through the magnetic stripe on the card and discard the card in a secure manner.

Q: Can I give my P-EBT benefits to someone else?

A: No. You cannot transfer the card to someone else. Buying or selling P-EBT benefits for cash is illegal and may result in disqualification from the program or having to pay a penalty.

Q: Is my child still eligible for summer meals?

A: Yes, your family can use Summer P-EBT and pick up summer meals if they are available in your city.

Q: Do these Summer P-EBT benefits expire?

A: P-EBT food benefits will remain available and accessible for up to nine months from the date they are issued.