



# Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) for Idaho Schools

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*Supporting Schools and Students to Achieve*

SHERRI YBARRA, ED.S., SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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# Agenda



- Team
- Definition of P-EBT
  - Purpose
  - Eligibility
    - Students
    - School Status
- Timeline
- Status of Idaho P-EBT plan/budget
  - Nationwide plans approved
- Responsibilities of the Superintendent's office
- Questions?

# P-EBT Team



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# What is Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT)?



**Through P-EBT, eligible school children receive temporary emergency nutrition benefits loaded on EBT (food stamp) cards that are used to purchase food. Children who would have received free or reduced price meals under the National School Lunch Act if their schools were not closed or operating with reduced hours or attendance.**

# Student Eligibility Requirements



## A child is eligible for P-EBT benefits if two conditions are met:

1. The child would be eligible for free or reduced-price meals if the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program were operating normally. This includes children who are:

- a) directly certified SY 2020-2021, or
- b) certified through submission of a household application processed by the child's school district for SY 2020-2021, or
- c) enrolled in a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school or a school operating under Provisions 2 breakfast and lunch

2. The child does not receive free or reduced-price meals at the school because the school is closed or has been operating with reduced attendance or hours for at least 5 consecutive days in the current school year. Once the minimum 5 consecutive day threshold is met, children are eligible to receive P-EBT benefits for closures or reductions in hours due to COVID-19.

# Free/Reduced Application Eligibility



- During COVID over 90 percent of our SFAs are serving free meals under SSO and SFSP.
  - Resulting in a large number of families who have not submitted an application to the SFA.
    - Deadline May 1<sup>st</sup> for submission timeline.
- Superintendent's office & Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) has been marketing the P-EBT program on CNP webinars/townhalls encouraging the submission and processing of a Free/Reduced application for those families that qualify.

# Standard for P-EBT Eligible School Status



- The school is closed (including any delayed start or early closure to the school year), or the school is operating with reduced attendance or hours.
- School closures do not include weekends, weather related closures, or days when the school is closed due to a holiday or regularly scheduled break (Thanksgiving, Holiday Break, Spring Break, etc.).
- The period of closure or reduced attendance or hours must meet the current school year minimum 5 consecutive day threshold before any child is eligible for P-EBT benefits. Once the minimum 5 consecutive day threshold is met, children are eligible to receive P-EBT benefits for closures or reductions in hours and/or attendance due to COVID-19 for the rest of the school year.

# Timeline



- 9/30/2020
  - Congress Passed Continuing Resolution (HR 8331) to continue P-EBT
- 12/22/2020
  - New Language of P-EBT in congressional law
- 2/1/2021
  - Updated P-EBT template for plan submission
  - Guidance on childcare included at this time
  - New updated dollar figures (next slide)
- 2/23/2021
  - ***Superintendent's office worked with DHW on the submission of an Idaho P-EBT plan to USDA.***
- 3/23/2021
  - ***Plan approved by USDA***
- 9/30/2021
  - Expiration date and all monies must be spent by this date



# February 1, 2021 increased daily value announced



Original P-EBT Reimbursement

SY 2020-2021 July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021	Free Reimbursements USDA School Meal Programs		
	Lunch	Breakfast	Daily Total
Contiguous U.S.	\$3.60	\$2.26	\$5.86
Alaska	5.79	3.64	9.43
Hawaii, Guam, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico	4.20	2.64	6.84

Updated February 2021 P-EBT Reimbursement

SY 2020-2021 July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021	Free Reimbursements USDA School Meal Programs			
	Lunch	Breakfast	Snack <b>(NEW)</b>	Daily Total
Contiguous U.S.	\$3.60	\$2.26	\$0.96	<b>\$6.82</b>
Alaska	5.79	3.64	1.56	<b>10.99</b>
Hawaii, Guam, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico	4.20	2.64	1.13	<b>7.97</b>

# Benefits to students



- Students may have different benefit amounts
  - Each student will get a separate card
  - Benefits are unique to the school learning model at each **school**.
  - A family with more than one child could potentially have different dollar amounts put on each child's P-EBT card.



- As of 3/31/21 the below state plans have been approved by USDA.
- <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/state-guidance-coronavirus-pandemic-ebt-pebt>

## School Year 2020-2021

*The following states have been approved to operate a Pandemic EBT program during SY 2020-2021*

<a href="#"><u>Arizona</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Indiana</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>North Dakota</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Texas</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Connecticut</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Kentucky</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Ohio</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Utah</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Delaware</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Massachusetts</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Pennsylvania</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Vermont</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>District of Columbia</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Michigan</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Puerto Rico</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Virginia</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Florida</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Minnesota</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Rhode Island</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Washington</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Hawaii</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Nebraska</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>South Carolina</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>West Virginia</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Idaho</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>New Mexico</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Tennessee</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Wisconsin</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Illinois</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>North Carolina</u></a>		

# Responsibilities of the Superintendent's office



- Superintendent's office to develop software for SFAs to enter information.
  - Working with software vendor, April
  - Testing with schools and DHW, May
  - Uploads from schools with eligible children in May to be transmitted to DHW in June
  - Disburse payments in July
  - All payments must be issued by September 30th

# Responsibilities of the Superintendent's office

## Cont.



- Superintendent's office will contract for Call Center Support
  - will field common questions from households of children that are eligible and potentially eligible to participate in P-EBT,
  - ensure that all children who are eligible are able to receive their P-EBT benefits
  - refer disputes to schools and answer eligibility questions
  - 1-833-685-2557
  - Email – [p-ebt@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:p-ebt@sde.idaho.gov)
- Returned Mail will be processed by SDE

# Responsibilities of the Superintendent's office

## Cont.



- P-EBT Outreach
  - Development of
    - SDE P-EBT website
    - Press Releases
    - SDE Social Media outreach
    - Work with non-profits/hunger advocacy groups
  - Develop School Kit
    - Importance of accurate data
    - Flyers
    - Sample Letter
    - Sample Social Media Posts for schools to utilize for families

# Responsibilities of the Superintendent's office

## Cont.



- Superintendent's office statewide training
  - CNP Webinars
  - CNP Townhalls
    - How to use newly developed software
      - How to properly enter eligible students into the software
  - School Packets
    - Resources and ideas for outreach

# Questions



- How many students are estimated to be eligible?
  - Because the Superintendent of Public Instruction's office continues to get updates from school districts, the eligible number of 71,110 is only an estimate
- What is the projected amount of funding to come to Idaho?
  - The Superintendent has requested \$1.6M in admin funds.
  - DHW has requested \$1.8M in admin funds to issue individual cards
  - Families are estimated to receive \$21,237,058 (but this is still being calculated and verified)





- When will the SDE website be available?
  - The Superintendent's Office just unveiled the website on March 29, 2021. The URL is
    - <https://www.sde.idaho.gov/cnp/pebt.html>

## Idaho School P-EBT

Through P-EBT, eligible school children receive temporary emergency nutrition benefits loaded on EBT (food stamp) cards that are used to purchase food. Children who would have received free or reduced price meals under the National School Lunch Act if their schools were not closed or operating with reduced hours or attendance for at least five consecutive days are eligible to receive P-EBT benefits.

Idaho State Department of Education is the lead agency for the Idaho School P-EBT.

A child is eligible for P-EBT benefits if two conditions are met:

1. The child would be eligible for free or reduced-price meals if the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program were operating normally. This includes children who are:
  - a. directly certified SY 2020-2021, or
  - b. certified through submission of a household application processed by the child's school district for SY 2020-2021, or
  - c. enrolled in a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school or a school operating under Provisions 2 breakfast and lunch
2. The child does not receive free or reduced-price meals **at the school** because the school is closed or has been operating with reduced attendance or hours for at least five consecutive days in the current school year. Once the minimum five consecutive day threshold is met, children are eligible to receive P-EBT benefits for closures or reductions in hours due to COVID-19.

[Check to See if You Qualify for P-EBT | →](#)

[Files](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Training](#)

[Links](#)

### Frequently Asked Questions

The 2019-2020 school P-EBT benefits for March-June 2020 closed on September 30, 2020. It is past the deadline to issue benefits for this time period. This page will only be discussing the August 2020-June 2021 P-EBT Benefit

#### Child Nutrition Programs »

- > [Child and Adult Care Food Program](#)
- > [School Meal Programs](#)
  - [Community Eligibility Provision](#)
  - [Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program](#)
  - [Idaho School Nutrition Reference Guide](#)
- [Idaho School P-EBT](#)
  - [National School Lunch & Breakfast](#)
  - [School Wellness](#)
  - [Smart Snacks](#)
- > [Summer Food Service Program](#)
- > [USDA Foods & Processing](#)

[Archives »](#)

[Resource Center »](#)

#### Contact Details

[Toll-Free Number](#)

[\(833\) 685-2557](#)

[p-ebt@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:p-ebt@sde.idaho.gov)

[Staff »](#)

# How Can Individuals and Organizations assist?



- Outreach to include information that **not all children in Idaho qualify**. It depends on their schools predominant learning mode and the child's free/reduced status in 20/21.
- Linking to SDE website
  - We encourage organizations to link to the SDE website instead of building a website of their own. This will ensure accurate and updated information as the program progresses.
- Encouraging families to update addresses and apply for free or reduced meals before May 1<sup>st</sup>.

# Payment Information - FAQ

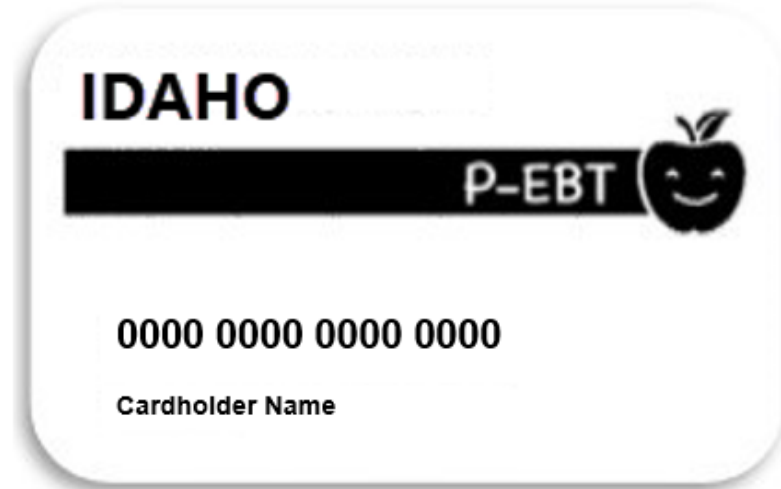


- When will the first families receive their money?
  - The Superintendent's office plans on having schools submit one upload with data starting around May 2021 and submit eligible payments to DHW for children by June/July 2021.
- Is a FAQ document available?
  - Yes, this is available on the Idaho State Department of Education P-EBT website.

# Will funds be placed on a Quest Card?



- The P-EBT Card will be a white card with black print sent to each eligible child in an amount calculated by eligible **school**.
- Each child's benefit may be different.
- The Superintendent's Office will not be able to track any spending from the card.



# Childcare Settings?



- What about childcare settings—will Idaho Food Stamp Program consider this understanding ISDE is school age only?
  - The Superintendent’s office is leading the public school P-EBT program.
  - The approved plan does not include childcare P-EBT. That data is housed at DHW.
  - You will need to contact DHW concerning the childcare P-EBT.

# USDA Nondiscrimination Statement



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mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

fax: (202) 690-7442; or

email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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# Contact Information

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