

Extra Food Benefits for Families During School Closures and Remote Learning

Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) provides families financial support to cover the cost of school meals during school closures, reduced hours and attendance, or remote learning. This benefit is provided to ALL families whose children receive free and reduced-price school meals in Oregon.

Another round of Pandemic EBT will be provided for the 2021-2020 school year.

Who is eligible?

Any household with children who, if not for school closures or remote learning during the COVID19- outbreak, would be receiving free and reduced-price meals through their school including those that attend a school where all students are provided with free meals during normal operations. Benefits will be issued to families with children enrolled in a K12- school, school-based preschool, or school based Headstart that normally participate in the National School Lunch Program.

In this new round of P-EBT, children 5-0 years old who receive SNAP will also receive P-EBT benefits. Children 6 years old that receive SNAP that are not yet enrolled in school are also eligible but families will need to verify with the Department of Human Services to receive benefits.

Families can get both Pandemic EBT and the prepared "grab and go" meals that schools are serving during the pandemic.

Immigration status does not matter for Pandemic EBT. **Pandemic EBT will not count in a public charge test.**

How much is the benefit?

Benefits will be issued based on the status of schools (fully remote, hybrid, or fully in-person) during a given month in an eligible child's school district. Benefits each month are:

- **Full benefits = \$136 a month per child**
 - Full benefits are provided when the majority of students are primarily attending school virtually
- **Partial benefits = \$75 a month per child**
 - Partial benefits are provided when students are in hybrid learning.
- **No benefits will be provided if students are in a school that is primarily operating in-person.**

Please note benefits vary by month. For example if a student was fully remote October 2020 through March 2021, in hybrid learning March 2021 through April 2021, and fully in person in May 2021, that family would receive a combination of the full benefit, the partial benefit, and no benefits, for each corresponding month.

When will I receive Pandemic EBT benefits?

Benefits will be distributed retroactively to cover school meals from October 2020 through May 2021 and will be dispersed starting the end of July 2021 through September 2021. Retroactive benefits for multiple months will be issued at one time with planned distribution occurring in July, August, and September 2021. These benefits will be available to you to use for a full year.

How will it work?

Benefits are issued through a benefit card to the child receiving the P-EBT benefits. It works just like a debit card to buy groceries.

Many children will automatically get Pandemic EBT.

If your family receives SNAP, the Pandemic EBT benefits will be added to the EBT card you already use for SNAP.

If your family received Pandemic EBT previously, the process this year will be slightly different. Each child in a household will be automatically issued benefits on a separate card - so many families will receive new benefit cards this year. For those that still have the card they received PEBT benefits on last year, benefits will be issued on this card for the oldest child in the household and new cards will be issued with benefits for any other children.

- The benefit card will be mailed to the most recent address on file for the child's school. **If a family's address has changed, please contact the child's school district by July 20th.**
- **If you no longer have your previous Pandemic EBT card, you can get a new one** by calling the Oregon Trail Card replacement line, 1-855-328-6715 or emailing OregonTrailCardDHS.Replacement@dhsosha.state.or.us.

If your family did not receive Pandemic EBT benefits last year, but may be newly eligible for free and reduced price school meals due to changes in your income, please fill out the free and reduced price meal application by June 20th: <https://www.ode.state.or.us/apps/frlapp>

- The benefit card will be mailed to the most recent address on file for the child's school. If a family address has changed, please contact the child's school district by July 20th.
- You will automatically be given Pandemic EBT benefits for the full school year, once you're approved for free school meals.

Who do I contact if I have questions about P-EBT?

Contact the PEBT hotline at 503-945-6481 or email EBTschoolmeals@dhsosha.state.or.us. The hotline is operated by 211 and they can provide assistance in many languages. The hotline and email will be operating starting July 1st.

