



## Frequently Asked Questions About P-EBT

### **Basics**

- [What is Pandemic EBT or P-EBT?](#)
- [Who will receive P-EBT?](#)
- [How much is the benefit?](#)
- [What do families need to do to receive the benefit?](#)

### **Using Your Card**

- [Where can families use the P-EBT card?](#)
- [What can families purchase with P-EBT?](#)
- [How long do families have to use P-EBT benefits?](#)
- [What should families do with the P-EBT card once they have spent the benefits?](#)
- [If a family uses their P-EBT card, can they still access other food resources, including school meals?](#)

### **Eligibility**

- [Will using P-EBT impact a family's immigration status?](#)
- [My child was enrolled in preschool/pre-K/Head Start last year. Is that child eligible for P-EBT?](#)
- [My child graduated in the spring. Is that child eligible for P-EBT?](#)
- [We have moved since the spring. Are we eligible for P-EBT?](#)
- [My children receive meals through the migrant ed program. Are we eligible?](#)

### **Application and Process**

- [When will families receive P-EBT benefits?](#)
- [I submitted an application. Will I hear back from someone to know if I'm approved?](#)
- [I have a Quest EBT card, but am not currently receiving SNAP benefits. Do I need to submit an application or will benefits automatically be loaded onto my card?](#)
- [I have TANF or WIC, but not SNAP. Will benefits be automatically loaded onto either of my cards?](#)
- [Will P-EBT continue during the 2020-2021 school year?](#)

### **What is Pandemic EBT or P-EBT?**

The Pandemic – Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) Program is additional money for families to buy food due to COVID-19 related school closures during the 2019-2020 school year.

### **Who will receive P-EBT?**

This program is available to all Alaskan families with school age children who, during March, April, and/or May of 2020:

- received free and reduced-price school meals in Alaska
- were enrolled in the free or reduced-price school meal program
- or attended a school where meals are free

Note that even if you didn't physically "receive" your free or reduced-price meals during the shutdown, you would remain enrolled in the free and reduced-price school meal program and would qualify for P-EBT. P-EBT benefits do not take into account students' access to grab and go meals or other resources during March, April, and/or May of 2020, as these resource were not available in all areas and not accessible at equal levels to all students.

### **How much is the benefit?**

Families eligible for March, April, and/or May of 2020 will receive \$458 for each child. Families that became eligible part-way through the closure will receive pro-rated benefits.

### **What do families need to do to receive the benefit?**

If families are already receiving SNAP benefits, they will receive the additional P-EBT benefit for each school-age child on their EBT card. See [foodbankofalaska.org/pebt](http://foodbankofalaska.org/pebt) for the latest updates on automatic disbursements to current SNAP recipients. No additional action is needed.

If families do not receive SNAP, but their children receive free or reduced-price school meals, they will need to opt-in to the program. The deadline has been extended to September 30<sup>th</sup>, but we encourage families to apply as soon as possible. Families can apply by returning the opt-in form they received in the mail, or by submitting an electronic application [here](#). There is a short screening form to complete to determine eligibility as part of the online application.

### **Where can families use the P-EBT card?**

P-EBT is NOT SNAP, but it operates very similarly. P-EBT cards can be used where SNAP EBT cards are Accepted, including superstores, grocery stores, convenience stores, and farmers markets. [Click here to find a store near you.](#) [Click here to see what farmers markets in Alaska accept SNAP.](#)

### **What can families purchase with P-EBT?**

P-EBT can be used to purchase the same food as SNAP benefits – fruits, vegetables, bread, meats, dairy, etc. Items you can NOT buy include:

- Prepared meals sold hot and ready to eat
- Diapers
- Cleaning products, toilet paper, paper towels, etc.
- Medicine or supplements
- Restaurant food
- Pet food
- Alcohol and tobacco products

[Click here for a complete list of approved food items.](#)

### **How long do families have to use P-EBT benefits?**

The money will carry over from month to month and will only be removed from the card if unused after one year.

### **What should families do with the P-EBT card once they have spent the benefits?**

Families should save the cards, because funds may be added at a later date.

### **If a family uses their P-EBT card, can they still access other food resources, including school meals?**

Families using their P-EBT card can still take advantage of all food resources in their community

including picking up/receiving meals from schools or community organizations, going to food pantries, and applying for federal nutrition programs such as SNAP. For more information about each of these resources, please go to [foodbankofalaska.org/help/covid19-food-resources](https://foodbankofalaska.org/help/covid19-food-resources).

**Will using P-EBT impact a family's immigration status?**

The Public Charge rule does not apply to P-EBT benefits and does not impact a family's or child's immigration status. Undocumented students are eligible for P-EBT if they are enrolled in free or reduced-price meals at their school or attend a school that offers universally free breakfast and lunch.

**My child was enrolled in preschool/pre-K/Head Start last year. Is that child eligible for P-EBT?**

There are no Head Start programs in Alaska that are eligible for P-EBT. Preschool/pre-K programs are eligible if they receive free meals through the National School Lunch Program. Email us at [snap@foodbankofalaska.org](mailto:snap@foodbankofalaska.org) if you are unsure if your preschool/pre-K program qualifies.

**My child graduated in the spring. Is that child eligible for P-EBT?**

Yes, as long as they received/were enrolled in free or reduced-price meals during March, April, and/or May of 2020.

**We have moved since the spring. Are we eligible for P-EBT?**

If your children received/were enrolled in free or reduced-price meals during March, April, and/or May of 2020 in Alaska, your family is eligible even if you currently live in another state. If your children received/were enrolled in free or reduced-price meals during March, April, and/or May of 2020 in a different state, you will need to contact that state to find out and potentially apply with their P-EBT program. Please note that states have different methods and timelines for rolling out this program.

**My children receive meals through the migrant ed program. Are we eligible?**

Yes.

**When will families receive P-EBT benefits?**

Families who receive SNAP benefits should receive P-EBT benefits by September 4th. These benefits will be automatically added to SNAP households' Quest EBT cards.

Families who do not receive SNAP, but otherwise qualify for P-EBT, will need to opt-in to the program. The deadline has been extended to September 30<sup>th</sup>, but we encourage families to apply as soon as possible. Families can apply by returning the opt-in form they received in the mail, or by submitting an electronic application [here](#). There is a short screening form to complete to determine eligibility as part of the online application. New EBT cards will be mailed out on a rolling basis as they are processed, and should be in families' mailboxes by mid-October.

**I submitted a P-EBT application. Will I hear back from someone to know if I'm approved?**

Families will not receive notification of approval/denial, or benefit levels. Families are instructed to wait until they receive their card in the mail, as there is not option available to check case status.

**I have a Quest EBT card, but am not currently receiving SNAP benefits. Do I need to submit an application or will benefits automatically be loaded onto my card?**

You will need to submit a P-EBT application and a new card will be issued to you.

**I have TANF or WIC, but not SNAP. Will benefits be automatically loaded onto either of my cards?**

No, you will need to submit a P-EBT application and a new card will be issued to you.

**Will P-EBT continue during the 2020-2021 school year?**

Currently, P-EBT is only available for the 2019-2020 school year and will be a one-time issuance. However, families should keep their cards as benefits may be added later.