

# NH P-EBT Frequently Asked Questions

## Q. What are P-EBT food benefits?

A. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 authorized the payment of Pandemic-Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) food benefits to households with children who would have received free or reduced-price school meals under the National School Lunch Act, if not for a school closure. These temporary food benefits are to help cover the cost of meals children would otherwise have received at school. They can be spent on food items just like Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

## Q. Do my child/children qualify for P-EBT food benefits?

A. If your child/children receive free or reduced-price school meals, then they are eligible to receive P-EBT food benefits for the days their school was closed due to COVID-19. This includes all children attending Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) schools where all children receive free or reduced-price school meals.

## Q. Do my foster child/children qualify for P-EBT food benefits if they were receiving free and/or reduced-price meals?

A. **All** children receiving free or reduced-price school meals are eligible to receive P-EBT food benefits for the days their school was closed due to COVID-19.

## Q. What can I buy with P-EBT benefits?

A. You can use P-EBT benefits to buy eligible food items anywhere SNAP/EBT cards are accepted. Eligible food items include dairy products, eggs, meat, cereal, rice, pasta, bread, fresh, frozen canned or dried vegetables and fruit, any ingredients you use for cooking, baby formula, diabetic foods, garden seeds, plants for growing food at home and ice. You can find a detailed list of eligible food items by clicking on the following link <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/eligible-food-items>.

## Q. What can I not buy with P-EBT benefits?

A. You cannot use P-EBT benefits to buy already prepared food, hot food, pet food, or vitamins.

## Q. Where can I use P-EBT benefits?

A. You can use P-EBT benefits to buy eligible food items anywhere SNAP/EBT cards are accepted. Click on the following link to find a SNAP/EBT retailer near you <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/retailer-locator>. Please remember to use your P-EBT benefits to purchase locally grown, healthy fruits and vegetables at participating Farmer's Markets in New Hampshire.

## Q. Do I need to apply for P-EBT food benefits for my child/children?

A. You do not need to apply if your family receives a benefit through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and your child or children can be identified as receiving free or reduced meals with information provided by the Department of Education. You will automatically receive P-EBT benefits for each eligible school-age child in your household. The benefits will automatically be issued to your family's current EBT card.

However, if you are open for SNAP but not receiving a benefit, you will not automatically receive P-EBT but you can apply online at NH Easy Gateway to Services <https://nheasy.nh.gov>.

If you have children who receive free or reduced-price school lunch, but your family does **not** receive a SNAP benefit or your child or children cannot be identified as receiving free or reduced lunch with information provided by the Department of Education, you will complete a short application for P-EBT. You can complete this application by going to NH Easy Gateway to Services <https://nheasy.nh.gov>.

## Q. When is the deadline to apply for P-EBT benefits?

If you need to apply for P-EBT, you must do so online at NH Easy Gateway to Services <https://nheasy.nh.gov> by August 24, 2020.

**Q. Will there be an email or phone number available for parent questions regarding the P-EBT cards?**

A. If you have any questions, please contact the P-EBT info line at 603-271-7373.

**Q. How much will my child/children receive in P-EBT food benefits?**

A. P-EBT benefit is \$5.70 per child per school day when school was closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The maximum monthly amounts you may be eligible to receive for each eligible child in your household are:

<b>Month</b>	<b>Amount</b>
March	\$68.40
April	\$125.40
May	\$119.70
June	\$62.70

**Q. What if I do not have an EBT Card?**

A. If you are already receiving SNAP benefits you will need to call 1-888-997-9777 or visit [www.ebtedge.com](http://www.ebtedge.com) to get a replacement EBT Card. P-EBT benefits will be issued to the same EBT Card as regular SNAP benefits.

If you are not receiving a SNAP benefit, you will receive a P-EBT card in the mail 5-10 days after your application for P-EBT has been approved. There will be instructions on how to PIN and use your P-EBT card included with the card. The P-EBT card will be sent to the address you listed in your application.

**Q. Do I have to spend P-EBT benefits right away?**

A. No, you have 365 days from the date of your last purchase to use P-EBT benefits. You can check your P-EBT benefits balance by visiting [www.ebtedge.com](http://www.ebtedge.com) or by calling 1-888-997-9777.

**Q. If someone has had their income change or is experiencing unemployment, should they fill out a new Household Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals?**

A. Yes, schools continue to make available to Parent(s) and Guardian(s) the Household Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals while schools are closed for households that are experiencing unemployment or a sudden job loss. For National School Lunch Program eligibility, contact your local SAU or school. Find school contact information at <https://www.education.nh.gov/pathways-education/local-district-schools>. If you are found eligible, you can then apply for P-EBT. Make sure to receive a Notification of Eligibility Determination for Meal Benefits from the school or SUA where you apply, which you may need to upload with your application information to NH Easy Gateway to Services at <https://nheasy.nh.gov>.

**Q: Are 18-26 special education students eligible for P-EBT?**

A: Eligible, enrolled special education students are eligible for P-EBT.

**Q: Do children that are homeschooled qualify for this program?**

A: Unfortunately, children who are homeschooled are not eligible for P-EBT as they do not receive free or reduced meals under the National School Lunch Act.

**Q. Will the P-EBT food benefit program continue through the summer?**

A. Currently, P-EBT food benefits will be issued for the time period of March 16, 2020 through June 15, 2020, when schools were closed due to COVID-19 during the 2019-20 school year.

**Q. Will I need to pay back my child/children's P-EBT food benefits?**

A. No. Families who receive P-EBT food benefits will not have to pay back the benefits.

**Q. Will receiving P-EBT food benefits impact my family's 'public charge' status?**

A. Receiving P-EBT food benefits will not affect the 'public charge' status for non-citizen households.

**Q. Is my family still eligible to participate in school meal programs at COVID-19 emergency locations if we receive P-EBT?**

A. Yes. P-EBT benefits are additional benefits that do not replace any child nutrition program meals being offered. Children may continue to receive "grab-and-go" meals or emergency food at COVID-19 emergency feeding sites offered by schools and community locations, even if they are receiving P-EBT benefits.

**Q. My family receives SNAP benefits and received SNAP Emergency Allotment supplements for April, and May. Will this have any effect on if or when my qualified child/children will receive the P-EBT food benefits?**

A. Eligibility for or receipt of P-EBT food benefits is not affected by your receipt of the SNAP Emergency Allotment supplements.