



July 18, 2022

PANDEMIC EBT FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions for Children Under Six P-EBT (2021-22 School Year)

1. What is Pandemic EBT (P-EBT)?

P-EBT is an optional federal program designed to provide food benefits to children who have temporarily lost access to free and reduced-price meals at school due to school closures triggered by COVID-19.

Children Under Six P-EBT provides benefits to households with children ages zero through five who received SNAP benefits between September 2021 and May 2022.

Children Under Six P-EBT is administered by the South Carolina Department of Social Services.

2. Who is eligible for Children Under Six P-EBT?

A child is eligible for benefits under this round of P-EBT if he/she is under the age of six and is a member of a household that received SNAP benefits at any time during the months of September 2021 – May 2022.

3. How do I apply for Children Under Six P-EBT?

There is no application process for Children Under Six P-EBT. Eligible SNAP children are automatically approved and will be issued a P-EBT card.

4. How will I receive my Children Under Six P-EBT benefits?

Children eligible to receive Children Under Six P-EBT will receive a new P-EBT card issued to the address associated with the SNAP case where they received SNAP benefits. If multiple children in the household are eligible, each child will receive a separate P-EBT card.

5. How much is the Children Under Six P-EBT benefit amount?

The monthly benefit amount for Children Under Six P-EBT is \$46. Benefits will be paid for each month the child was a participant in an active SNAP case and was under the age of six between September 2021 and May 2022. The maximum benefit amount (for the entire 2021-22 school year) is \$414 per child.

6. Do I or my child have to be a citizen to be eligible for P-EBT?

No. Children Under Six P-EBT benefits are for children ages zero through five who are a member of a household that received SNAP benefits at any time during the months of September 2021 – May 2022.

7. When can I expect to receive Children Under Six P-EBT benefit for my child?

Children Under Six P-EBT cards should be mailed out on or before August 1, 2022.

Due to the high volume of P-EBT cards entering the mailing stream, delivery times for P-EBT cards will vary.

8. Can I receive my child's P-EBT benefits faster by calling my county office?

Calls to local County DSS offices or to the State DSS office will not result in faster processing of P-EBT benefits. **Please do not call your local DSS County office with questions about P-EBT.**

9. What should I do if I feel my child should have received Children Under Six P-EBT benefits but did not?

If your child(ren) did not receive Children Under Six P-EBT benefits and your child meets the eligible criteria outlined in Question #3, please email the P-EBT Benefits email box at PEBTBenefits@dss.sc.gov.

10. How do I request a replacement card?

To check your balance or report your P-EBT card lost, stolen, or damaged, call 1-800-554-5268.

11. Do I have to use all my P-EBT benefit when I get it?

No. The benefit will carry over from month to month. Benefits not used within 270 days of issuance will be automatically removed from the card.

12. When will my P-EBT benefit expire?

P-EBT benefits expire nine months (270 days) after issuance.

13. What if an eligible P-EBT household does not want to participate in the P-EBT program?

If an eligible household receives a P-EBT card and does not want to participate in the program, the household should destroy the P-EBT card. The P-EBT card and food benefit **cannot be transferred** to anyone else or used by someone outside your household.

14. What can be purchased with the P-EBT benefit?

Purchasing rules are the same for SNAP and P-EBT. P-EBT benefits can be used to purchase food for a household, such as:

- fresh, frozen, canned, or dried fruits and vegetables
- meat, poultry, fish, dairy products, eggs
- cereal, bread, pasta, rice
- any ingredients you use for cooking
- baby formula
- diabetic foods
- snack foods and non-alcoholic beverages
- seeds and plants for growing food at home

P-EBT benefits CANNOT be used to buy:

- beer, wine, liquor, cigarettes, or tobacco
- vitamins, medicines, and supplements
- prepared foods, hot foods
- non-food items (pet foods, cleaning supplies, paper products, hygiene items, or cosmetics)

15. What retailers accept P-EBT?

P-EBT benefits can be used to purchase food items at retailers displaying a SNAP logo/signage. Find the closest retailer where you can use your benefits at:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/retailer-locator>



16. I am a grocery retailer interested in becoming an approved SNAP/P-EBT merchant. What do I need to do?

Grocery retailers/food stores in SC who are interested in accepting SNAP/EBT must contact the USDA for approval. Visit online at:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/apply-to-accept>