



August 2, 2022

PANDEMIC EBT FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions for Children Under Six P-EBT (Summer 2022)

1. What is Summer Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) for children under six?

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 or child care due to closures triggered by COVID-19.

Children who received Children Under Six P-EBT for the 2021-22 school year may receive Summer P-EBT if their SNAP enrollment continues during the summer period (June 1, 2022 – August 16, 2022) or whose SNAP enrollment begins or ends during the defined summer period.

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

2. Who is eligible for Summer 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 between June 1, 2022 and August 16, 2022.

3. How long is the covered summer period?

The number of P-EBT benefit days equals the number of weekdays during the covered summer period. South Carolina adopted the U.S. standard for the length of the summer period which equals 55 days. The benefit amount per child is \$391.

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

South Carolina will issue Summer Children Under Six P-EBT benefits retroactively. If your child received Children Under Six P-EBT benefits for the 2021-22 school year, Summer Children Under Six P-EBT benefits will be added to the existing P-EBT card.

If the eligible child did not receive Children Under Six P-EBT benefits for the 2021-22 school year, P-EBT cards are expected to be **mailed out** on or before August 30, 2022. Due to the high volume of P-EBT cards entering the mailing stream,

delivery times for Summer Children Under Six P-EBT cards will vary. Please allow a minimum of 7-10 business days, after the card's mailing, for card arrival.

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

No. Summer 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 between June 1, 2022 - August 16, 2022.

6. When can I expect to receive Summer Children Under Six P-EBT benefits for my child?

Summer Children Under Six P-EBT benefits will be processed for children who received a Children Under Six P-EBT benefits for the 2021-22 school year on or before August 24, 2022.

If the eligible child did not receive a Children Under Six P-EBT benefit for the 2021-22 school year, P-EBT cards are expected to be **mailed out** on or before August 30, 2022. Due to the high volume of P-EBT cards entering the mailing stream, delivery times for Summer Children Under Six P-EBT cards will vary. Please allow a minimum of 15 business days, after the card's mailing, for card arrival.

7. 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.**

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

If your child did not receive Summer Children Under Six P-EBT benefits and they meet the eligible criteria outlined in Question #2, please email the P-EBT Benefits email box at PEBTBenefits@dss.sc.gov.

9. What can be purchased with the Summer Children Under Six P-EBT benefit?

Purchasing rules are the same for SNAP and Summer Children Under Six 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

Summer 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)

10. 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>



11. When will my Summer P-EBT benefit expire?

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

12. 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.

13. Do I have to use all my Summer P-EBT benefit when I get them?

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.

14. Do Summer P-EBT benefits replace summer feeding programs or other community feeding programs for children and families?

No. The Summer P-EBT benefit is provided in addition to other meal programs; it does not replace them.

15. 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>.