



2021 Summer P-EBT Q&A for Schools

Introduction

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 made several changes to the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) program through amendment of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. Among these changes is the extension of P-EBT to the summer of 2021. The following document provides an overview of the Iowa 2021 Summer P-EBT program, including the school's role in facilitating the program.

Q&A

1. How is eligibility for summer P-EBT determined?

P-EBT is available this summer to Iowa students enrolled in a school participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) who were eligible to receive NSLP free- or reduced-price meals during the 2020-21 school year. It also includes students who are determined to be newly eligible for NSLP free- or reduced-price meals during the covered summer period. No cost school meals provided in the school year 2020-21 through the Summer Food Service Program do not qualify students for P-EBT benefits.

The Iowa Department of Education (Department) submitted summer P-EBT eligibility data to the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) in July using the June 2021 School Reporting in Iowa (SRI) data submission. The Department will provide DHS with a second eligibility file in late August, using newly eligible data provided by schools.

2. How can a student become newly eligible for the summer P-EBT benefit?

Students may become newly eligible for NSLP free- and reduced-price meals during the summer by:

- Submitting a completed Iowa Free- and Reduced-Price Meal Application to their school between the last day of school year 2020-21 and August 13, 2021;
- Receiving a DHS Free Lunch Notice Letter; or
- Being directly certified during this timeframe.

3. What is the school's role in summer P-EBT for schools participating in Student Reporting in Iowa (SRI) or Formative Assessment System for Teachers™ (FAST™)?

The Department will provide DHS with a second eligibility file in late August using newly eligible data provided by schools. Newly eligible students are those students who became eligible for NSLP free- and reduced-price meals between the last day of school year 2020-21 and August 13, 2021. In order to have the most current data for the second eligibility file, schools should:

- Ensure Iowa Free- and Reduced-Price Meal Applications are made available to students enrolled in their school.
- Process applications received between the last day of school year 2020-21 and August 13, 2021.
- Continue to check the direct certification list and receive DHS Free Lunch Notice Letters from families.
- Update any newly eligible students in your student information system (SIS) no later than August 20, 2021. In addition to updating free and reduced-lunch status, make sure the student has a state ID and a current address in the SIS.

The Department will obtain the student data from the school's SIS after the close of business on August 20, 2021. No action is required from schools for this to occur.

Note: Iowa Free- and Reduced-Price Meal Applications received after August 13, 2021 cannot be used to confer summer P-EBT eligibility. Applications received on or before August 13, 2021 should be processed and entered into the SIS no later than August 20, 2021 so these students are eligible to receive summer P-EBT benefits.

4. What is the school's role if they are a nonpublic school and not participating in SRI or FAST?

Eligible nonpublic schools not participating in SRI or FAST should submit contact information for the students who were eligible for NSLP free- and reduced-price meal benefits in May 2021, before the end of the 2020-21 school year. Students who became newly eligible for free- and reduced-price meals through either:

- A paper Free- and Reduced-Price Meal Application between the last day of school year 2020-21 and August 13 and determined to be eligible;
- Received a DHS Free Lunch Notice Letter; or
- Were directly certified during this timeframe should also be included in the submission.

Patti Harding, administrative consultant in the Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services, will contact eligible nonpublic schools and provide guidance on how to complete and submit a P-EBT Nonpublic Student Reporting Form. Submit questions to patti.harding@iowa.gov.

5. Is eligibility for 2021 summer P-EBT based on the student's school year 2020-21 learning schedule (in-person, hybrid, 100% virtual models)?

No, the student's chosen learning model for the school year 2020-21 does not impact eligibility for the 2021 summer P-EBT benefit.

6. Will the Department contact a school district/nonpublic school regarding P-EBT?

The majority of P-EBT inquiries will be resolved through the DHS P-EBT telephone number (833-631-2508). The Department may contact a school district or nonpublic school if additional information is needed to respond to a P-EBT inquiry received through the DHS P-EBT customer call center.

7. What is the 2021 summer P-EBT benefit per eligible student?

A fixed summer benefit of \$375 per eligible student will be paid out to eligible students.

8. Is there more information available for schools about the USDA Pandemic EBT Program?

Summer P-EBT information for schools is available on the [Department's P-EBT webpage](#). Parents and guardians may call 833-631-2508 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or visit the [Iowa Department of Human Services website](#).

Questions and Additional Guidance

If you have questions, contact your [regional school nutrition consultant](#) or contact Stacie Schafer at stacie.schafer@iowa.gov. For additional summer P-EBT parental guidance and information, visit the [Department of Human Services' P-EBT webpage](#).