

## **1. Who gets Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) benefits? The entire household is active on a program with DSS, so why did not all school-aged children in my household receive P-EBT?**

The age of the child is not the eligibility factor for P-EBT, children receive P-EBT based on; 1) enrollment in a school that participates in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and/or School Breakfast Program (SBP), and 2) if the child would have been able to receive free or reduced-price meals if their school had not closed due to COVID-19.

### *Helpful Hints:*

- *There are other federal nutrition programs that a child may receive breakfast and lunch through, such as the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) or privately funded breakfast and lunch meals served at school; however, the P-EBT eligibility is strictly tied to the loss of access to the USDA's NSLP and SBP.*
- *Many Pre-K, Head Start, and childcare programs provide breakfast and lunch through CACFP – even those programs that may be located within a school building that is providing NSLP and SBP to full day and/or older children. The loss of access to meals through CACFP does not confer eligibility for P-EBT.*
- *All students enrolled in schools participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), where all students are eligible to receive breakfast and lunch meals at no cost, are eligible for P-EBT. Breakfast and lunch provided at CEP schools are provided through NSLP and SBP.*

## **2. Who should have received P-EBT benefits on 5/24/2020?**

Wave 1 was only issued to those children who would have received free or reduced-price school meals through NSLP and/or SBP and who are Active SNAP and/or Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) recipients. Any eligible child not receiving benefits in Wave 1 should have received benefits in a catch-up wave on 6/8/20, or in Wave 3, on 6/21/2020.

## **3. Who should have received P-EBT benefits on 6/8/2020?**

Wave 2 was issued to those children who would have received free or reduced-price school meals through NSLP and/or SBP and who are Active Medicaid (Husky A) recipients. Any eligible child not receiving benefits in Wave 2 should receive benefits in Wave 3, on 6/21/2020, or in subsequent catch-up waves.

#### **4. Who should have received P-EBT benefits on 6/21/2020?**

Wave 3 was issued to those children who would have received free or reduced-price school meals through NSLP and/or SBP and who were not identified in Waves 1 or 2. This includes mismatched students listed above who did not receive benefits in Waves 1 or 2, foster care students, and those students who are eligible because of the Community Eligibility Program (CEP).

#### **5. What is CEP? Are children in schools/districts that participate in CEP eligible to receive P-EBT?**

Community Eligibility Program, or CEP, allows schools and districts in areas with higher rates of poverty to serve breakfast/lunch at no cost to all enrolled students within the school, group of schools, or district.

CEP participating schools: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/CEP/CEPschoolslist.pdf>

Yes, children who were not determined eligible for P-EBT through the direct certification process, but are otherwise eligible because the child/children attend a CEP school district would be eligible for P-EBT.

#### **6. Why did one child receive P-EBT while the other did not?**

There are multiple factors as to why one child may have received P-EBT and the other did not, and through DSS' ImpaCT eligibility system there is no clear way to identify which child received benefits and which one did not as the benefits were provided to the Head of Household.

Some factors may include:

- Name Mismatch
  - Ex. DSS records have the child listed as John Doe in ImpaCT, but the child is listed as Jon Do by the school and in the CT State Dept. of Education (CSDE) records.
- One child is enrolled in a school that does not participate in the NSLP and/or SBP, while the other child is enrolled in a school that does.
  - Ex. Greenwich, Monroe, Newtown, and Ridgefield high schools do not participate, while all other schools in their districts participate.
- The child's school only participates in the Special Milk Program and not the NSLP and/or SBP and therefore is not eligible to receive benefits.
- The child's half-day Pre-K program is located in a school that the child's older sibling attends full time. The older child receives school breakfast and lunch at no cost (eligible to receive P-EBT) and the younger (Pre-K) child's program provides breakfast and lunch through CACFP (not eligible to receive P-EBT).

#### **7. What public school districts in Connecticut do NOT participate in NSLP and/or SBP?**

The following public school districts do not participate in USDA's NSLP and/or SBP and, therefore, students enrolled in these schools are not eligible for P-EBT: Canaan, Cornwall, Darien, East Granby, Eastford, Madison, New Canaan, Sherman, Somers, The Gilbert School District, The Woodstock Academy District, Union, Weston, Westport, and Wilton. There are also towns in which some schools participate and some do not. (see question 6)

**8. If a student resides in a CEP school district but attends a charter or magnet school in a different school district or town that does not participate in CEP, is the student eligible for P-EBT?**

In order to receive P-EBT, the student would have to be either; 1) enrolled in a school that participates in CEP, or 2) enrolled in a school that participates in NSLP and/or SBP and is eligible to receive free or reduced-price school meals in their respective charter or magnet school. Many magnet, charter, and some private schools in CT do participate in NSLP and/or SBP.

**9. Are children enrolled in private schools eligible for P-EBT?**

Some private schools do participate in NSLP and/or SBP and some private schools participate in CEP. All children enrolled in private schools participating in CEP are eligible for P-EBT. All children eligible for free or reduce-priced school meals through NSLP and/or SBP attending private schools that are participating in NSLP and/or SBP (even through interschool agreements with other districts) are eligible to receive P-EBT.

**10. Are children who are home schooled eligible for P-EBT?**

P-EBT benefits are provided to any student who would receive free or reduced-price school meals through NSLP and/or SBP, if not for their school closure due to COVID-19. Home school is not eligible to participate in NSLP and/or SBP; therefore, children who are home schooled are not eligible for P-EBT. This includes homeschooled children who receive SNAP, TANF/TFA or Husky A, as well as children who were enrolled in schools participating in NSLP and/or SBP prior to the current school year and are no longer attending that school are not eligible for P-EBT.

**11. Are previous recipients of the Summer EBT for Children (SEBTC) benefits eligible to receive P-EBT?**

P-EBT benefits are provided to any student who would receive free or reduced-price school meals through NSLP and/or SBP, if not for their school closure due to COVID-19. Therefore, some past recipients of SEBTC may be eligible for P-EBT if their child meets the above criteria. However, previously receiving SEBTC does not factor into determining P-EBT eligibility.

**12. Are undocumented students eligible for P-EBT?**

P-EBT benefits are provided to any student who would receive free or reduced-price school meals through NSLP and/or SBP, if not for their school closure due to COVID-19, including all students enrolled in CEP schools/districts regardless of the student's citizenship status.

### **13. Will using P-EBT Benefits affect a person's immigration status?**

No. Both the Department of Homeland Security and USDA have stated P-EBT would not be considered a public benefit under the public charge inadmissibility rule or policy. Receiving nutrition assistance through P-EBT would not make an immigrant a "public charge" or affect their immigration status.

### **14. To what address will P-EBT benefits be issued? What if the address on file with DSS or CSDE is not up to date? What if there is joint custody?**

In Waves 1 and 2, P-EBT benefits were issued to the address on file with DSS. In Wave 3, the P-EBT benefits will be issued in the child's name and sent to the address that was on file with the school as of May 13, 2020. If either address is not current, the household needs to contact the DSS Benefit Center at 1-855-626-6632 to update the address. For households with joint custody, the benefits will be issued as described above.

### **15. Are children who are homeless eligible to receive P-EBT? What address should be used?**

Yes, children who are homeless and enrolled in a school participating in NSLP and/or SBP are eligible to receive P-EBT. P-EBT will be issued to the address on file with the school. If the address on file with the school is no longer an address the child may receive mail, the child should contact the DSS Benefit Center to ensure they have a current address to mail the card.

### **16. How do the Waves 2 & 3 households choose a PIN?**

- They should call 1-888-328-2666
- They will need:
  - i. 18-digit card number
  - ii. To enter zeros (0000) when asked for a SSN and should not enter the last 4 digits of their SSN
  - iii. The Date of Birth of the person whose name is on the card
  - iv. A 4-digit PIN Number

### **17. Can a household choose not to participate?**

Yes, participation in the program is voluntary. If the household chooses not to participate in the program, they do not need to call and select a PIN number. Instead, they should dispose of the card by cutting through the magnetic stripe and discarding the card in a secure manner.

## **18. Can households give the benefits to someone else to use?**

These benefits are only meant for the household whose child or children were receiving meals through the NSLP and/or SBP. They should not transfer the card to someone else if they choose not to participate.