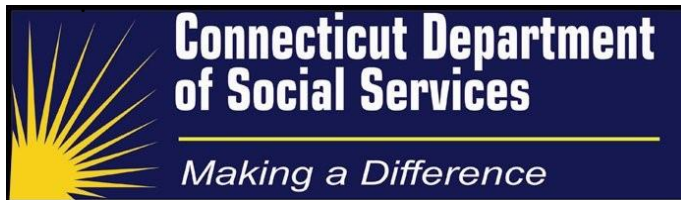


STATE OF CONNECTICUT
Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) Frequently Asked Questions
School Year 2021 – 2022



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

The age of the child is not the eligibility factor for P-EBT, students 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) in school year (SY) 2021-22, 2) the school was closed or operating with reduced hours for at least 5 consecutive days during SY 2021-22 due to COVID-19, and 3) the student was learning remotely for part or all of SY 2021-22 due to COVID-19 related absence.

Helpful Hints:

- Most CT schools offered meals at no cost to all students for SY 2021-22, due to the public health emergency. However, P-EBT eligibility is determined using: A school meals application approved for free or reduced-priced meals on file with the student's school prior to September 1, 2022; Direct certification for free or reduced-priced school meals through receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Family Assistance (TFA), or Husky A (< 185% FPL) with DSS; Direct certification for free school meals through determination as foster, homeless, runaway, and some Head Start; or, Enrollment in a school participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP).
- There are other federal nutrition programs that a student may have received breakfast and lunch through in SY 2021-22 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.
- If your child was not eligible for remote learning due to a [COVID-19 related absence](#), as reported by the school to the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE), they will not receive P-EBT benefits for the SY 2021-22.

2. What is considered a “COVID-19 related absence”?

[The Connecticut Legislature's June 2021 Public Acts](#) generally did not permit remote learning during SY 2021-22 on a district-wide, school-wide, or individual student basis. Rather, remote learning was considered a school day in the following limited circumstances:

- (1) For students who were required to be in isolation due to a confirmed COVID-19 infection, or who were required to be quarantined due to close contact with a confirmed case;
- (2) In rare and individualized circumstances, for students with live-in family members who had a documented unusual vulnerability to COVID-19;
- (3) In those rare cases in which a Planning and Placement Team determined that instruction in the home provided the student with a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment and revised the student's Individualized Education Program accordingly; or
- (4) If there was an order issued during the 2021-22 school year that required a school or district to close pursuant to an emergency declaration. Please note that local health districts did not have the authority to issue such emergency declarations. Such declarations can only be issued pursuant to legislative or gubernatorial authority. *No such declarations were issued during the 2021-22 school year.*

3. Will everyone who received P-EBT benefits in previous years also receive benefits for the 2021-22 SY?

No. The following groups are no longer eligible for P-EBT benefits:

- Students who were no longer eligible for free or reduced-priced school meals in SY 2021-22.
- Students who received P-EBT benefits in the summer of 2021 but have since graduated from High School.
- Students who received P-EBT benefits in the summer of 2021 but have since moved out of the state and are not attending a school in Connecticut.
- Students who are learning in person at their school for the entire school year.
- Students who were absent from school for reasons not related to COVID-19 as outlined in [question 2](#).

4. When will benefits be distributed?

Benefits will be deposited in two deposit groups:

- The first deposit group, for students directly certified for free or reduced-priced school meals through virtue of residing in a household that receives SNAP, TFA, or Husky A ($\leq 185\%$ FPL), occurred August 28, 2022, and covered the school months of September 2021 – June 2022.
- The second deposit group, for students eligible to receive free or reduced-priced school meals by virtue of submitting and having a free or reduced-priced school meals application

approved or through the student's enrollment in a school participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), will occur in mid-September and covers the school months of September 2021 – June 2022.

5. How will benefits be distributed?

- If your child receives SNAP or TFA benefits on an EBT card, or previously received P-EBT benefits on an EBT card, the SY 2021-22 P-EBT benefits will be added to that EBT card.
- If your child has not received P-EBT benefits previously, and only receives Medicaid from DSS, a P-EBT card will be issued in the Medicaid Head of Household's name to the address on file with DSS.
- If your child has not received P-EBT benefits previously and does not receive benefits from DSS or is a private school student, a P-EBT card will be issued in the student's name to the address on file with their school.

SAVE THE P-EBT CARD, ALL FUTURE P-EBT DEPOSITS WILL GO ON THAT CARD!

6. How can I check if the P-EBT benefits have been deposited on my card?

To check if benefits have been deposited onto your card, call the EBT customer service line at 1-888-328-2666. After entering your card information, the system will provide your most recent deposits and transactions.

7. What if I no longer have my P-EBT card, how do I request a replacement?

To request a new card, call the DSS Benefits Center at 1-855-626-6632 and select Option 1 from the main menu.

8. How do I choose a PIN?

- Call 1-888-328-2666
- You will need:
 - i. 18-digit card number
 - ii. The Date of Birth of the person whose name is on the card
 - iii. Either the last four digits of the SSN for the person whose name is on the card OR enter four zeroes (0000) in place of the SSN if the card is in the student's name
 - iv. A 4-digit PIN Number

9. How much will my child receive?

The amount of benefits a student is eligible to receive depends on the learning model the student was in each month and can differ from student to student.

Monthly Benefits are broken into 3 categories based on COVID-19 related attendance data as reported from schools to the CSDE:

- **Fully Remote: \$127.80**
 - Students who were eligible for remote learning for the entire month due to COVID-19 as defined in [question 2](#).
- **Mostly Remote: \$71.00**
 - Students who were eligible for remote learning for greater than five (5) school days due to COVID-19 as defined in [question 2](#), but not for the entire month.
- **Hybrid: \$21.30**
 - Students who were eligible for remote learning for less than or equal to five (5) school days due to COVID-19 as defined in [question 2](#).

Examples:

- *Student 1 was Fully Remote for the entire months of September, October, and November and then switched to Mostly Remote for the months of December and January. The student attended school in person February through the end of school.*
 - i. *This student qualifies for \$127.80 per month for September, October, & November.*
 - ii. *This student qualifies for \$71.00 per month for December & January.*
 - iii. *The student does not qualify for any P-EBT benefits for February, March, April, May, or June.*
 - iv. *This student will receive \$525.40 in P-EBT benefits.*
- *Student 2 was Hybrid for all months of September – January and attended school in-person for the rest of the school year.*
 - i. *This student qualifies for \$21.30 per month for September – January.*
 - ii. *This student will receive \$106.50 in P-EBT benefits.*
- *Student 3 was learning in person for September – November, was Fully Remote for December, was Mostly Remote for January and attending school in-person for the rest of the school year.*
 - i. *This student does not qualify for P-EBT benefits for September through November.*
 - ii. *This student qualifies for \$127.80 for December.*
 - iii. *This student qualifies for \$71.00 for January.*
 - iv. *This student does not qualify for P-EBT benefits for February through the rest of the school year.*
 - v. *This student will receive \$198.80 in P-EBT benefits.*

10. What is CEP?

Community Eligibility Program, or CEP, allows eligible schools and districts to serve breakfast/lunch at no cost to all enrolled students within the school, group of schools, or district. A list schools that participated in CEP in SY 2021-22 can be found here:

[Community Eligibility Provision \(CEP\) Approved Districts and Schools: School Year 2021-22](#)

11. Are students in schools/districts that participate in CEP eligible to receive P-EBT?

Yes, students that attend a CEP school are eligible to receive P-EBT benefits provided the school was closed or operating with reduced hours for at least 5 consecutive days during SY 2021–22, and the student was absent from school or learning remotely due to COVID-19 as defined in question 2.

12. Why did one student receive P-EBT while the other did not?

There are multiple factors as to why one student may have received P-EBT, and the other did not. Some factors may include (but are not limited to):

- Name Mismatch
 - Ex. DSS records have the student listed as John Doe in the ImpaCT eligibility system, but the student is listed as Jonathan Deaux by the school and in the CT State Dept. of Education (CSDE) records.
- One student is enrolled in a school that does not participate in the NSLP and/or SBP, while the other student is enrolled in a school that does.
 - Ex. New Lebanon School in Greenwich participates in the NSLP, but Greenwich High School does not.
- The student's school participates in the Special Milk Program or CACFP 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 student 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).
- One student was learning remotely for all or part of SY 2021–22 due to COVID-19 as defined in [question 2](#) while the other was learning in-person for the entire school year.

- One child is under the age of six (6), the household receives SNAP benefits, and the other child is a student who attended school in person for SY 2021-22.

13. What public school districts in Connecticut did NOT participate in NSLP and/or SBP (or the Seamless Summer Option of the NSLP) in SY 2021-22?

The following public-school districts did 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 Woodstock Academy District, Union, Weston, Westport, and Wilton. There are also towns in which some schools participated in NSLP and/or SBP, and some do not.

14. 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 and experienced COVID-19 related absences as defined in [question 2](#). Many magnet, charter, and some private schools in CT do participate in NSLP and/or SBP.

15. Are students 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 students enrolled in private schools participating in CEP are eligible for P-EBT if the school was closed or operating with reduced hours for at least 5 consecutive days during SY 2021–22 and the student was absent due to COVID-19 as defined in [question 2](#).

Students eligible for free or reduced-priced school meals through NSLP and/or SBP attending private schools that are participating in NSLP and/or SBP are eligible to receive P-EBT if the school was closed or operating with reduced hours for at least 5 consecutive days during SY 2021–22 and the student was absent due to COVID-19 as defined in [question 2](#).

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

P-EBT benefits are provided to eligible students who would receive free or reduced-price school meals through NSLP and/or SBP. 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, TFA or Husky A, as well as children who were enrolled in schools participating in NSLP and/or SBP prior to SY 2021-22 and are no longer attending that school are not eligible for P-EBT.

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

P-EBT benefits are provided to students who would receive free or reduced-price school meals through NSLP and/or SBP if the school was closed or operating with reduced hours/attendance for at least 5 consecutive days during SY 2021–22 and the student was absent due to COVID-19 as defined in [question 2](#). 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.

18. Are undocumented students eligible for P-EBT?

P-EBT benefits are provided to students who would receive free or reduced-price school meals through NSLP and/or SBP, if not for their school closure, reduced hours, or reduced attendance due to COVID-19 as defined in [question 2](#), including all students enrolled in CEP schools/districts regardless of the student's citizenship status.

19. 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.

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

For SNAP, TFA, and Medicaid recipients, P-EBT benefits are issued to the address on file with DSS. For non-recipients of DSS benefits, the P-EBT benefits will be issued in the student's name and sent to the address that was on file with the school in SY 2021-22. For households with joint custody, the benefits will be issued as described above.

21. Are students who are homeless eligible to receive P-EBT? What address should be used?

Yes, students who are homeless and enrolled in a school participating in NSLP and/or SBP are eligible to receive P-EBT if the school was closed or operating with reduced hours for at least 5 consecutive days during SY 2021–22 and the student was absent due to COVID-19 as defined in [question 2](#). P-EBT will be issued to the address on file with the school.

22. Can a household choose not to participate?

Yes, participation in the program is voluntary, households do not have to participate. If a household chooses not to participate, they do not need to call and select a PIN number. Instead, they should

dispose of the EBT card by cutting through the magnetic stripe and discarding the card in a secure manner. The benefits will then be returned to the federal government.

23. Can benefits be given to someone else to use?

Only the household that receives the card may use the card to buy food. There are penalties if a household lets other people use their card or sells their card. After a household buys food, they may eat, share, or donate the food.

24. How long will the P-EBT benefits last on the card?

If you do not use your P-EBT benefits for a period of 274 consecutive days (approx. 9 months), any P-EBT benefits remaining in the EBT account that are at least 274 days old will be removed from the account.

The 274-day clock begins on the date of deposit or last date of purchase, whichever is later. To stop P-EBT benefits from being removed from an EBT card account, the household must use at least some of the P-EBT benefits before day 274. Benefits removed from an EBT account will not be restored.

25. If we did not receive P-EBT previously due to not submitting a free and reduced-priced school meals application to my child's school, can I still submit an application from previous years to obtain P-EBT benefits?

No. The eligibility period for receiving P-EBT benefits for SY 2019-20 and SY 2020-21 has ended.

26. What if I believe that my student's absences or their eligibility for free or reduced-priced meals during SY 2021-22 was reported incorrectly. Is there a reconsideration process?

Yes. Contact your child's school and request for your child's school to review the information submitted to the CSDE for SY 2021-22. If the school determines that an error in reporting was made, the school may contact the CSDE with a formal request to reconsider the benefits determination.