

Student Eligibility for Free or Reduced-price Meal Benefits Through the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (S-EBT) Program

The S-EBT is a permanent, nationwide program that began in summer 2024. The S-EBT was established under the [Consolidated Appropriations Act](#) passed in December 2022. S-EBT gives families with children extra benefits, like SNAP, to help pay for food in the summer. S-EBT benefits can also determine a student to be eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

Households that are approved for S-EBT benefits as of July 1, 2025, may be eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. To help local educational agencies (LEAs) identify students eligible through S-EBT, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) will include these students in the [Direct Certification \(DC\) web application](#) starting in school year 2025-26. To support this update, the two new codes below have been added to the Direct Certification S-EBT list.

- FE = Free S-EBT
- RE = Reduced S-EBT

LEAs should notify and work with their point-of-sales (POS) software company regarding these changes and the two new categories.

Although FE and RE students will appear in the DC web application, they are not considered directly certified because their eligibility was determined through a household-submitted application rather than automatic data matching.

Requirements and Guidance

- LEAs are required to issue a parent/guardian notification letter to households where a student has been determined eligible based on a FE or RE status. The parent/guardian notification letters are available in the [“Parent and Guardian Notification Letters”](#) section of the CSDE’s Eligibility for Free and Reduced-price Meals and Free Milk in School Nutrition Programs webpage.
- The FE or RE codes are **not** considered to be directly certified since an application was submitted.
- A student with a code of FE cannot count toward a school’s Identified Student Percentage (ISP) for the purposes of the Community Eligibility Program.
- Students with these codes are not subject to LEA verification and are not part of the verification pool selected on October 1.

There may be cases where a sibling’s name does not appear on the Direct Certification S-EBT list, even though they live in the same household as a student identified as FE or RE on the list. In such situations, free or reduced-price benefits must not be automatically applied to the sibling.

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whose name is missing. When this occurs, the determining official should contact the CSDE S-EBT Coordinator, David Donovan, for guidance.

Important Reminder

Do not send any student personal information via email. Only the SASID number and date of birth are permitted to be shared through email.

Questions

Questions regarding S-EBT and student free and reduced-price meal benefits may be directed to David Donovan at David.donovan@ct.gov or 860-807-2013.

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For more information, visit the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) [Direct Certification for School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage, or contact the [school nutrition programs staff](#) at the Connecticut State Department of Education, Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504, Hartford, CT 06103-1841. This document is available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/nslp/directcert/eligibility_fr_meals_through_sebt.pdf.

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Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

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