

## **Pennsylvania - Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) – Summer 2023 Family Guide**

Congress created Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) as a temporary response to help families cover the cost of breakfasts and lunches their children would have been eligible to receive for free or at reduced price through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).

To be eligible for a 2023 Summer P-EBT benefit a student must:

1. As of May 2023, be attending a school that participates in the NSLP.
2. Be determined as eligible for free or reduced-price school meals for the 2022-2023 school year.

Students are not eligible to receive a 2023 Summer P-EBT benefit if, for the 2022-2023 school year, they were homeschooled, attended a school that did not participate in NSLP, or attended a cyber school or a district's virtual academy that existed prior to the pandemic.

The 2023 P-EBT benefit is a fixed amount of \$120 per eligible student. The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) will issue the benefits starting in late July and going into mid-August 2023.

### **Family Resources – Quick Reference**

**Check if a child was determined eligible to receive P-EBT:**

P-EBT Parent Portal: <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/Compass.Web/Public/pebtsearch>

For specific instructions for accessing the portal on a mobile device and searching for the child's name go to this link:

[https://www.dhs.pa.gov/coronavirus/Documents/PEBT\\_Parent-Portal-Guide.pdf](https://www.dhs.pa.gov/coronavirus/Documents/PEBT_Parent-Portal-Guide.pdf)

**Activate the child's P-EBT card or change the pin – call the number on the back of the card.**

**Request replacement card for the 2021-2022 school year or summer 2022 or 2023:**

P-EBT Parent Portal: <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/Compass.Web/Public/pebtsearch>

**Submit a P-EBT inquiry: NEW**

**P-EBT Inquiry Portal:** <https://www.pennebt.com/en/> , or call the family hotline: 877-343-0179

**Check a P-EBT balance and transaction history:**

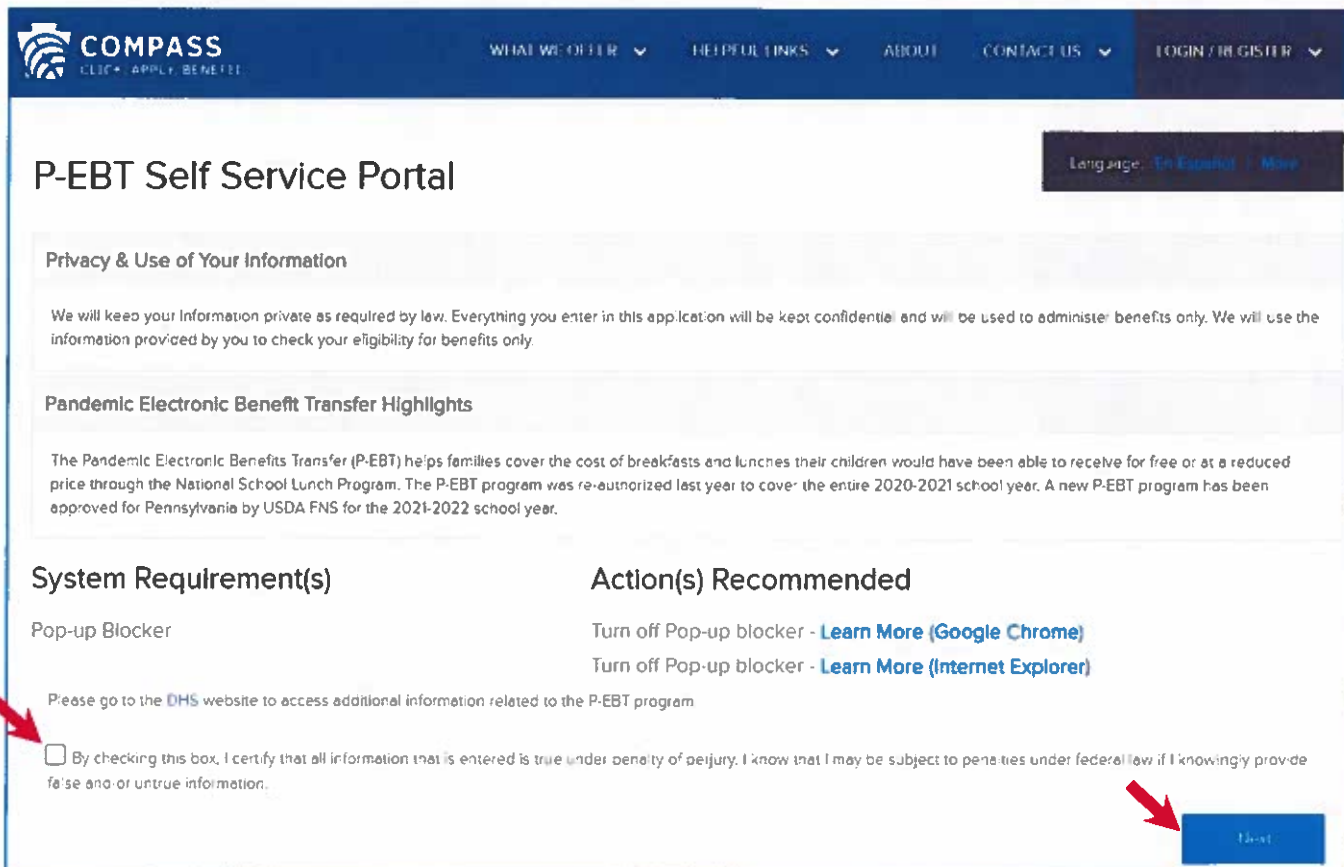
<https://www.connectebt.com/> or the ConnectEBT mobile app.

The DHS P-EBT website is a one-stop overview for many of these resources and provides further details, including Frequently Asked Questions: <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/coronavirus/Pages/P-EBT-Guide.aspx>

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### P-EBT Parent Portal Instructions

1. Go to: <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/Compass.Web/Public/pebtsearch>
2. On the first screen, check the acknowledgement box at the bottom of the screen then click “Next”



The screenshot shows the 'P-EBT Self Service Portal' with a dark blue header containing the COMPASS logo and navigation links. A language selector in the top right shows 'English' and 'Español'. The main content area includes a privacy notice, program highlights, and a table with system requirements and recommended actions. At the bottom, there is a certification checkbox and a 'Next' button. Red arrows point to the checkbox and the 'Next' button.


System Requirement(s)	Action(s) Recommended
Pop-up Blocker	Turn off Pop-up blocker - <a href="#">Learn More (Google Chrome)</a> Turn off Pop-up blocker - <a href="#">Learn More (Internet Explorer)</a>

Please go to the [DHS](#) website to access additional information related to the P-EBT program.

☐ By checking this box, I certify that all information that is entered is true under penalty of perjury. I know that I may be subject to penalties under federal law if I knowingly provide false and/or untrue information.

[Next](#)

- On the second screen, information must be entered about the school year, school, student and parent. **Important: the information entered on this screen must exactly match the information the school submitted to DHS for the student.** When the screen is complete, click 'Next'.


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P-EBT Self Service Portal

School Year ▾  
2021-2022

Please enter the student's information to verify their identity and locate your P-EBT issuance information.

Please locate the student's school

In what county is the student's school? ▾  
02 - Allegheny

School type: ▾  
Public School

If the student goes to public school, please select the school district from the list: ▾  
Pittsburgh

To which school building does the student go? ▾  
Not Listed-No Mentioned

Student Information

Student First Name ▾  
Rlar

Student Last Name ▾  
Mcl

Student Middle Name ▾

Student Date of Birth ▾  
05/01/2001

Guardian Information

Guardian First Name ▾  
Al

Guardian Last Name ▾  
Mcl

Guardian Email ▾


Guardian Contact Phone Number ▾


County of Residence ▾  
02 - Allegheny


P-EBT or EBT Card Number:

If you have your P-EBT or EBT card number, please enter it below.

P-EBT or EBT Card Number: ▾


Click image for larger display


I'm not a robot



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- If a match to the student information entered is found in the DHS system and the student is eligible for a P-EBT benefit it will display a screen which details how the benefit was calculated. The parent can request a replacement card from this screen.

## My P-EBT Card

Request a Replacement P-EBT Card

Welcome to the P-EBT Benefit Dashboard. On this Dashboard, you can review the student's information as recorded and submitted by their school, as well as any benefit information that is currently available

### Student Information

First Name Issa	Middle Name Jonethan	Last Name Cle
Date of Birth 11-22	School Name Area Primary Center	

### P-EBT Benefit Information

Amount	Expected Issuance Date Range	Months Covered in Issuance	How We Calculated Your Benefit
\$710	05-09-2022-05-20-2022	Sep, Oct, Nov	Number of days out because of COVID-19 * Daily Rate: 1 * \$710 = \$710
\$35.50	06-13-2022-06-24-2022	Dec, Jan, Feb	Number of days out because of COVID-19 * Daily Rate: 5 * \$710 = \$35.50
N/A	07-18-2022-07-29-2022	Mar, Apr, May	N/A
\$391.00	08-15-2022-08-26-2022	Summer	Maximum amount as determined by the United States Department of Agriculture

Please go to the [DHS](#) website to access additional information related to the P-EBT program

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## **Summer 2023 P-EBT Frequently Asked Questions - Schools**

### **How does a cyber school differ from a virtual learning program implemented during the pandemic?**

Cyber schools are not eligible for P-EBT because they do not participate in the NSLP. Districts often call their programs cyber or virtual academies, which are not eligible for P-EBT because they do not participate in the school's NSLP agreement and, in most cases, they were established prior to the pandemic. They are typically run separately from the school building classrooms and the students are enrolled in the cyber program.

Virtual learning programs implemented during the pandemic refer to programs that schools put in place to extend learning from their school buildings to children who could not be in school during the pandemic. These students are enrolled in regular classrooms at the building and the building participates in the NSLP. For this reason, free and reduced or CEP students enrolled in these programs may be considered for P-EBT benefits.

### **How much will students receive?**

For summer 2023, eligible students will receive a stipend of \$120, which is the maximum as determined by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

### **When will summer 2023 P-EBT benefits be distributed?**

At the end of July 2023 through mid-August 2023. Parents/guardians will receive a letter from DHS prior to the student receiving the summer 2023 P-EBT benefit. The letter will advise the parent/guardian that their child is eligible for the summer benefit and provide answers to frequently asked questions.

### **How will students receive P-EBT funds?**

Children whose families already receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits will receive the P-EBT benefits on the household's regular EBT card, if possible. Otherwise, benefits will be loaded on the P-EBT card the child received for last school year, if possible. If a child cannot be matched against a previous P-EBT issuance for the 2021-2022 school year, a new P-EBT card will be mailed to the student at the current address submitted for the student by the school.

### **What role do schools play?**

Schools that participate in the NSLP must submit a Summer 2023 P-EBT file by July 7, 2023. DHS uses data from these submissions as the sole source to determine P-EBT benefits for students.

Families might contact schools with general P-EBT questions or questions about their child's specific P-EBT benefits.

Schools can assist families with general questions by sharing information from the **Family Guide** on their school website or sending the information via email to parents/guardians.

Schools can assist families with questions about P-EBT benefits for their specific child/children by first confirming the data that was submitted to DHS in the school's Summer 2023 P-EBT file. The school should contact the P-EBT School Helpdesk ([pebt@csc.csiu.org](mailto:pebt@csc.csiu.org) or 800-683-5100) if they find errors in the P-EBT data they submitted for a child. But if the data the school submitted for the child was correct, the school should then guide the parent/guardian to use one of the DHS family P-EBT resources to obtain an answer to their question (see the Family Guide).

**What best practices have schools established to inform parents?**

Many schools post the Family Guide for parents on their school/district website and alert parents/guardians via email, text or auto-call that the P-EBT resource has been posted. Some schools email the Family Guide directly to families. In the communication to parents/guardians it is advisable to mention that DHS is currently sending letters to families of students who are eligible for the P-EBT benefit and that the benefits are due to be issued by DHS beginning in late July into August 2023. Make sure families understand that the Family Guide provides links and information that should help them obtain answers for their P-EBT questions.

**Can P-EBT cards be used at school to purchase school meals?** No. P-EBT benefits can only be used for the same purchases as SNAP, formerly known as food stamps. The card can only be used at approved food retailers, predominantly grocery stores and convenience stores. SNAP benefits and P-EBT cannot be used to purchase hot prepared foods, even at grocery stores and convenience stores.



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### **Important Information About Continuing Extra Benefits in Response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Health Emergency**

Due to the COVID-19 health emergency, children who are eligible for free or reduced-priced meals at school will receive extra food benefits to cover the period of the summer of 2023. These food benefits are called Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer or P-EBT benefits. P-EBT benefits help families in Pennsylvania buy food during the summer. The child listed on this letter will receive the Summer P-EBT benefit.

Your child is eligible for this program because the school has informed us that your child was enrolled at the school through the end of the previous school year and your child was eligible for free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or became eligible over the summer on or before June 30, 2023.

**There is no application for P-EBT. You do not need to do anything to get these benefits!**

#### **Who is eligible?**

A child will get Summer P-EBT benefits if:

1. The school participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP); AND
2. The child was eligible for free or reduced-price meals through the NSLP during the 2022-2023 school year or became eligible for free or reduced-price meals through the NSLP between June 1, 2023 and June 30, 2023; AND,
3. The child was enrolled at the school during the previous school year (at least during May 2023).

#### **Are children in homeschool or cyber charter school eligible for P-EBT?**

No. Federal law does not provide P-EBT for children that are home schooled, attend a cyber charter school, or are enrolled in a school that does not participate in the NSLP. This also includes school districts' virtual academies that were in place prior to the pandemic as these academies are not considered to be participating in the NSLP. See Section 1101 of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

#### **When will Summer P-EBT benefits be issued?**

Benefits will be issued to regular EBT cards and previously issued P-EBT cards if the Department of Human Services (DHS) is able to match your child to a previous issuance for either the 2020-2021 or 2021-2022 school year. If we are not able to match your child to a previous issuance, a new P-EBT card will be mailed. The new P-EBT card will be mailed by August 11, 2023, and should be received by the end of September 2023 at the latest.



### **How much is the Summer P-EBT benefit?**

The benefit amount for Summer P-EBT has been set by federal law at \$120 per child. This is to cover the months of June, July, and August 2023.

### **How are Summer P-EBT benefits issued?**

On your household EBT Card - If your student is currently receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits, the Summer P-EBT benefit will be added to your card, if possible.

On a white P-EBT card for each child – If we can't add the Summer P-EBT benefit to a card you already have, then we will try to issue to your child's previous P-EBT card for the 2020-2021 or 2021-2022 school year, if possible. If we cannot match your child successfully to a previous issuance, we will send you a new white P-EBT card that says "Pennsylvania" on the front. If you have multiple children in your household, you will receive multiple white P-EBT cards, one for each eligible child. Each card will be in the name of the respective child. The card will be in a plain white envelope addressed to the child with a return address in Texas.

### **Where can I get more information?**

For more information about P-EBT, please visit: <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/coronavirus/Pages/P-EBT-Guide.aspx>

### **How do I set up a card when I receive it?**

**To start using the P-EBT card:** Call the phone number on the back of the card. You will need the P-EBT card number on the front of the card, your zip code, and the date of birth of the child listed on the card.

**IMPORTANT! USE YOUR ZIP CODE FOR YOUR SSN:** When asked for the last four digits of your Social Security Number, you will need to enter the last four numbers of your five-digit zip code. When asked for your date of birth, you will need to enter the child's date of birth. You will need to set a four-digit PIN.

**Once activated:** The card can be used to buy eligible food items anywhere SNAP/EBT cards are accepted. Although the card is in the name of your child, your child does not need to be present when using the card.

### **Are there rules about what I cannot do with the card? What if I don't want the benefit?**

P-EBT cards cannot be transferred, given away, traded, or sold. Doing so is considered fraud and you can be prosecuted. If you do not wish to be a part of this program, simply shred and throw away the P-EBT card.

### **How long do I have to use my card?**

After nine months of inactivity, we will remove the Summer P-EBT benefits from your account. Removed benefits cannot be replaced.

### **Where do I get my balance information?**

To find out your P-EBT or Access card balance 24/7, call 1-888-EBT-PENN (1-888-328-7366).

### **Will this affect my other benefits?**

No. Summer P-EBT will not have any effect on your regular SNAP and TANF benefits. You will continue to receive your monthly SNAP or TANF benefit on your regular payment day.

You may review your benefits online at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us).

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**Información importante sobre la continuación de los beneficios adicionales en respuesta a la emergencia de salud por coronavirus (COVID-19)**

Debido a la emergencia de salud por COVID-19, los niños que son elegibles para recibir comidas gratuitas o a precio reducido en la escuela obtendrán beneficios alimenticios adicionales para cubrir el período del verano de 2023. Estos beneficios alimentarios se denominan Transferencia electrónica de beneficios debido a la pandemia o beneficios de P-EBT. Los beneficios de P-EBT ayudan a las familias de Pensilvania a comprar alimentos durante el verano. El niño que figura en esta carta recibirá el beneficio de P-EBT para el verano.

Su hijo es elegible para este programa porque la escuela nos ha informado que estaba inscrito en la escuela hasta el final del año escolar anterior y su hijo era elegible para recibir comidas gratis o a precio reducido a través del Programa Nacional de Almuerzos Escolares (NSLP) o se tornó elegible durante el verano el 30 de junio de 2023 o antes.

**No hay solicitud para P-EBT. ¡No necesita hacer nada para obtener estos beneficios!**

**¿Quién es elegible?**

Un niño recibirá los beneficios de P-EBT para el verano si:

1. La escuela participa en el NSLP; Y
2. El niño reunía los requisitos para recibir comidas gratis o a precio reducido a través del NSLP durante el año escolar 2022-2023 o se convirtió en elegible para recibir comidas gratis o a precio reducido a través del NSLP entre el 1 de junio de 2023 y el 30 de junio de 2023; Y
3. El niño estuvo matriculado en la escuela durante el año escolar anterior (al menos durante mayo de 2023).

**¿Los niños que asisten a la escuela en el hogar o una escuela autónoma cibernética son elegibles para los beneficios de P-EBT para el verano?**

No. La ley federal no proporciona beneficios de P-EBT para los niños que reciben educación en el hogar, asisten a una escuela autónoma cibernética o están inscritos en una escuela que no participa en el NSLP. Esto también incluye las academias virtuales de los distritos escolares que existían antes de la pandemia, ya que no se considera que estas academias participen en el NSLP.

**¿Cuándo se emitirán los beneficios de P-EBT para el verano?**

Los beneficios se emitirán a las tarjetas EBT regulares y a las tarjetas P-EBT emitidas anteriormente si el Departamento de Servicios Humanos (DHS) puede hacer coincidir a su hijo con una emisión anterior ya sea para el año escolar 2020-2021 o 2021-2022. Si no podemos hacer coincidir a su hijo con una emisión anterior, se enviará por correo una nueva tarjeta P-EBT. La nueva tarjeta P-EBT se enviará por correo antes del 11 de agosto de 2023 y debería recibirse, a más tardar, a finales de septiembre de 2023.

**¿A cuánto asciende el beneficio de P-EBT para el verano?**

La suma de la prestación para el P-EBT de verano ha sido fijada por la ley federal en \$120 por hijo. Esto es para cubrir los meses de junio, julio y agosto de 2023.

### ¿Cómo se emiten los beneficios de P-EBT para el verano?

**En la tarjeta de EBT de su hogar:** Si su estudiante recibe actualmente beneficios del Programa de Asistencia Nutricional Suplementaria (SNAP) o Asistencia Temporal para Familias Necesitadas (TANF), el beneficio de P-EBT para el verano se agregará a su tarjeta, si es posible.

**En una tarjeta de P-EBT en blanco para cada niño:** Si no podemos agregar el beneficio P-EBT de verano a una tarjeta que ya tiene, intentaremos emitirla a la tarjeta P-EBT anterior de su hijo para el año escolar 2020-2021 o 2021-2022, si es posible. Si no podemos relacionar a su hijo con éxito con una emisión anterior, le enviaremos una nueva tarjeta P-EBT blanca que dice "Pennsylvania" en el frente. Si tiene varios niños en su hogar, recibirá varias tarjetas P-EBT blancas, una para cada niño elegible. Cada tarjeta estará a nombre del niño respectivo. La tarjeta estará en un sobre blanco normal dirigido al niño con una dirección de remitente en Texas.

### ¿Dónde puedo obtener más información?

Para obtener más información sobre los beneficios de P-EBT, visite: <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/coronavirus/Pages/P-EBT-Guide.aspx>

### ¿Cómo configuro una tarjeta cuando la recibo?

**Para comenzar a usar la tarjeta de P-EBT:** Llame al número de teléfono que se encuentra en el reverso de la tarjeta. Necesitará el número de tarjeta de P-EBT que aparece en el frente de la tarjeta, su código postal y la fecha de nacimiento del niño que figura en la tarjeta.

**¡Importante! USE SU CÓDIGO POSTAL PARA SU SSN:** Cuando se le soliciten los últimos cuatro dígitos de su número de Seguro Social (SSN), deberá ingresar los últimos cuatro números de su código postal de cinco dígitos. Cuando se le pida su fecha de nacimiento, ingrese la fecha de nacimiento del niño. Deberá establecer un PIN de cuatro dígitos.

**Una vez activada:** La tarjeta se puede usar para comprar alimentos elegibles en cualquier lugar donde se acepten tarjetas de SNAP/EBT. Aunque la tarjeta está a nombre de su hijo, no es necesario que esté presente cuando se use la tarjeta.

### ¿Existen reglas sobre lo que no puedo hacer con la tarjeta? ¿Qué sucede si no quiero el beneficio?

Las tarjetas de P-EBT no se pueden transferir, regalar, intercambiar ni vender. Hacerlo se considera fraude y puede ser llevado a juicio. Si no desea participar en este programa, simplemente triture y tire la tarjeta de P-EBT.

### ¿Cuánto tiempo tengo para usar mi tarjeta?

Después de nueve meses de inactividad, eliminaremos los beneficios de P-EBT para el verano de su cuenta. Los beneficios eliminados no se pueden reemplazar.

### ¿Dónde obtengo la información de mi saldo?

Para averiguar el saldo de su tarjeta de P-EBT o Access las 24 horas, los 7 días de la semana, llame al 1-888-EBT-PENN (1-888-328-7366).

### ¿Esto afectará mis otros beneficios?

No. El beneficio de P-EBT para el verano no tendrá ningún efecto en sus beneficios regulares de SNAP y TANF. Continuará recibiendo su beneficio SNAP o TANF mensual en su día de pago regular. Puede consultar sus beneficios en línea en [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us).

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