

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) Food Benefits

### How will families receive P-EBT benefits?

- P-EBT benefits are issued to students automatically, families do not need to apply.
- Students in families receiving SNAP benefits will have their P-EBT benefits added to their existing SNAP EBT cards.
- Students eligible for free or reduced-price school meals, but not enrolled in SNAP, will have their P-EBT benefits issued on their P-EBT card.
- P-EBT cards were mailed to most students in May-June 2020.
  - If a P-EBT card is lost, call the MD EBT Customer Service at 1-800-997-2222 or go to
  - Students eligible for P-EBT in 2020-2021, but not eligible in the 2019-2020 school year, will receive a P-EBT card in the mail.

### When can families expect to receive P-EBT benefits?

- Maryland staff at DHR and MSDE are currently working to issue P-EBT benefits for the new 2020-2021 school year.
- Families will likely receive benefits in **January 2020** for the days schools have been closed since October 2020.
- After that lump sum benefit is issued in January, future benefits will probably be issued every 2 months.
- For students that were eligible in September 2020, but did not receive September P-EBT benefits yet, these retroactive benefits will be issued by **December 31, 2020. This includes all students in the new CEP schools.**
- In addition, students that were eligible in March-June 2020, but did not receive P-EBT benefits yet, will also receive retroactive benefits by December 31, 2020.

### How much is the P-EBT benefit for the 2019-2020 school year?

- An average benefit amount will be calculated based on the number of days most students are not... attending in-person school. (The state does not plan to calculate benefits based on each student's individual attendance records.)
- The P-EBT benefit is **\$5.86 per school day.**

### Who is eligible?

- Students eligible for free or reduced-price school meals are eligible for P-EBT benefits.
- All students enrolled in CEP schools are also eligible for P-EBT benefits.
- P-EBT benefits are issued for school days when students are engaged in virtual (not in-person) instruction, due to the pandemic.
- Students attending in-person instruction and getting meals from SFSP, but not NSLP/SBP, may get P-EBT.

### Where can I find more information?

- DHR's P-EBT: <https://dhs.maryland.gov/p-ebt/>
- MSDE's P-EBT: <http://marylandpublicschools.org/newsroom/Pages/COVID-19/PEBT.aspx>