



Important Information about the 2020-21 Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT)

Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) is a temporary food benefit available to Minnesota families with children in grades K-12 who would have received free or reduced-price meals if schools were open. P-EBT has changed for the 2020-21 school year. Families eligible last year are not necessarily eligible for P-EBT this year.

P-EBT eligibility

Student must be:

- Enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); or
- Attending a Community Eligibility Provision school; or
- Approved for free and reduced-price school meals through the Application for Educational Benefits

In addition, benefits will only be issued to these students when:

- They were distance and/or hybrid learning for the majority of school days in a month.

Students who spent the majority of school days doing in-person learning in a month will not receive any food benefits for that month even if they are in an eligible student category (as above).

Applying for the 2020-21 P-EBT benefits

There is no separate P-EBT application. Families must be approved for free and reduced-price school meals to be considered for P-EBT benefits. SNAP, MFIP, Tribal TANF, and Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) students are automatically qualified.

- Each school has a different process for free and reduced-price meal applications, so check with your child's school. Applications approved by February 28 will be considered for earliest benefit issuance.
- Children in a CEP school are eligible. Call the school if you are unsure whether you receive meals through this provision.
- You do not have to do anything if you are already on SNAP, MFIP, Tribal TANF or if you have already applied for free and reduced-price school meals for the 2020-21 school year.
- Make sure the school has your current address and contact information. This is to ensure P-EBT cards are mailed to the correct address.
- Pre-K children will not be included at this time.

Free food pick up at schools

Many children are currently receiving no-cost school lunches through other programs. These children may not be approved for free and reduced-price school meals. If you are not certain whether you need to fill out an application for free and reduced-price school meals for this school year, please contact your child's school.

Food benefits

- Families approved for free and reduced-price school meals by February 28, 2021, will be notified in March if they can expect to receive P-EBT benefits in late March.
- All families will receive retroactive benefits on a staggered schedule. The initial March benefits will include benefits for September through October 2020.
- Each child will get a different food benefit amount based on their school's learning model. See the frequently asked questions on the [Minnesota Department of Human Services P-EBT](#) webpage for examples.

P-EBT card

- P-EBT cards will be mailed in late March 2021.
- Each eligible child in your household will receive a new separate P-EBT card in the mail.
- Families will receive a notice when they can expect to receive a card.
- This new P-EBT card will also be loaded with additional benefits in later months, keep your card safe.
- There will be instructions on how to activate the card, but you can also call EBT Edge customer service at 888-997-227 or visit the [ebtEDGE](#) website for help with activation.

Text message about P-EBT

On Monday, February 1, 2021, the Minnesota Department of Human Services sent a text message to those who received P-EBT benefits for the 2019-20 school year. Texts will not be sent to families who opted out of receiving text messages. If you would like to opt out of future messages, reply to the text with: STOP.

Additional resources

- Contact your child's school with questions about the free and reduced-price school meal application.
- P-EBT Hotline for the 2020-21 school year program will be available in early March 2021.
- For additional information go to the [Minnesota Department of Human Services P-EBT](#) webpage.
- Apply for SNAP at the [ApplyMN](#) website, or contact your local county or tribal human services agency for additional information and ways to apply.
- Use the [Hunger Solutions](#) website to locate resources near you.