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Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

k12.wa.us

August 16, 2022



Action Required
Informational

BULLETIN NO. 050-22 Child Nutrition Services

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents
School District Superintendents
School District Business Managers
School District Food Service Directors

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Pandemic EBT Summer 2022 and Children Under Six

CONTACT: Leanne Eko, RD, SNS – Executive Director of Child Nutrition Services
360-725-0410, leanne.eko@k12.wa.us

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT), or Pandemic EBT, is a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) program developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The program provides food benefits to eligible children to replace meals that students would have received, if not for disruptions to in-person instruction or school facility closure.

Pandemic EBT benefits have been issued throughout the pandemic for school year (SY) 2019–20, SY 2020–21, and summer 2021. Washington submitted plans for SY 2021–22, Children Under Six, and Summer 2022. At this time USDA has approved Washington to issue P-EBT food benefits for Children Under Six and Summer 2022. Schools play a vital role to ensure eligible Washington students receive these benefits.

Administration

The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), in partnership with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), is administering the P-EBT program in Washington state. Collaboration between these state agencies, local schools, and districts will ensure that Washington students receive this important benefit.

We appreciate Local Education Agency (LEA) efforts to provide meals to students during the school year and as well as during the summer months. Students are eligible for summer P-EBT benefits whether or not they participate in summer meal programs.

P-EBT Eligibility

Students who were approved for free or reduced-price school meals in SY 21–22 and were enrolled in June 2022 are eligible for P-EBT benefits. This includes:

- Students enrolled at a school that normally participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or School Breakfast Program (SBP).
- Students included in Free and Reduced-Price (F/R) eligibility for SY 21–22 including:
 - 21–22 Directly Certified Students through Direct Certification system.
 - 21–22 Directly Certified Students through other sources.
 - 21–22 Eligible students via new free and reduced-price meal applications.
 - 20–21 Eligible students who are not captured in the bullets above.

All students in schools that participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), or Provision 2 for both the NSLP and SBP, are eligible for benefits. Students enrolled in Virtual Academies or other schools that do not participate in the NSLP are not eligible for benefits.

P-EBT rules allow families that do not have a current F/R application on file, the opportunity to submit an application and receive summer P-EBT benefits for eligible children. This is separate from the normal meal application process for the new school year. State prototype meal application materials are available in English and Spanish on the [Meal Application and Verification Information webpage](#), under the 'Application Materials' dropdown.

Approved Plans and Benefit Levels

Summer P-EBT benefits will be issued to all eligible students as outlined above. The benefit amount is \$391 per student and will be available on existing P-EBT cards. Newly eligible students will receive a P-EBT Card in the mail. Benefits are planned to be issued in late August.

The WA Children Under Six plan was also approved. Children may qualify if they are under age 6 and live in a household with an active Basic Food Assistance account. Eligible children will receive a standard benefit of \$43 for each month they resided in a household active on Basic Food from September 2021 – June 2022, up to a maximum of \$430. Eligible children may also receive the summer benefit as described above.

Washington has worked with USDA to develop an approvable SY 21–22 plan for school-aged children. At this time USDA has not approved the submitted plan. We will provide additional information should a school plan be approved.

Local Education Agency (LEA) Role

Upload Data

Information provided by LEAs will be used to identify eligible students. LEAs must upload student and school information into the P-EBT portal for students to receive P-EBT benefits. Instructions on how to upload the information was provided to School Nutrition Departments. An opportunity to provide updates or additionally eligible students will be available in September 2022.

Data is uploaded into a secure data portal hosted by Accenture, a DSHS contracted vendor. Section 1101(e) of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA, P.L. 116–127) states: “Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Agriculture may authorize State educational agencies and school food authorities administering a school lunch program under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) to release to appropriate officials administering the supplemental nutrition assistance program such information as may be necessary to carry out this section.”

Data compilation and upload must be completed by school staff that have the authority to access Meal Eligibility student information.

Share Information with Families

Families can sign up for text message alerts about the status of their child’s P-EBT benefits by filling out a simple verification form on the [DSHS P-EBT Text Sign-Up webpage](#).

For full details and additional questions about P-EBT benefits, families can visit [the DSHS P-EBT webpage](#) or call the P-EBT Contact Center at 833-518-0282 between 8 am and 5 pm Monday-Friday (except observed holidays). We encourage LEAs to share this information with families through communication channels such as social media, emails, and other outreach methods.

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Leanne Eko, RD, SNS – Director of Child Nutrition Services, at 360–725–0410 or email leanne.eko@k12.wa.us. The OSPI TTY number is 360–664–3631.

This bulletin is also available on the [Bulletins](#) page of the OSPI website.

Tennille Jeffries-Simmons
Chief of Staff

T.J. Kelly
Assistant Superintendent
Financial Resources

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Leanne Eko, RD, SNS

Executive Director

Child Nutrition Services

Assurance of Civil Rights Compliance

The Sponsor hereby agrees that it will comply with: i. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.); ii. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.); iii. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794); iv. Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.); v. Title II and Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 as amended by the ADA Amendment Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 12131-12189); vi. Executive Order 13166, "Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency." (August 11, 2000); vii. All provisions required by the implementing regulations of the Department of Agriculture (USDA) (7 CFR Part 15 et seq.); viii. Department of Justice Enforcement Guidelines (28 CFR Parts 35, 42 and 50.3); ix. Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) directives and guidelines to the effect that, no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subject to discrimination under any program or activity for which the Program applicant receives Federal financial assistance from USDA; and hereby gives assurance that it will immediately take measures necessary to effectuate this Agreement. x. The USDA non-discrimination statement that in accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs).

This assurance is given in consideration of and for the purpose of obtaining any and all Federal financial assistance, grants, and loans of Federal funds, reimbursable expenditures, grant, or donation of Federal property and interest in property, the detail of Federal personnel, the sale and lease of, and the permission to use Federal property or interest in such property or the furnishing of services without consideration or at a nominal consideration, or at a consideration that is reduced for the purpose of assisting the recipient, or in recognition of the public interest to be served by such sale, lease, or furnishing of services to the recipient, or any improvements made with Federal financial assistance extended to the Program applicant by USDA. This includes any Federal agreement, arrangement, or other contract that has as one of its purposes the provision of cash assistance for the purchase of food, and cash assistance for purchase or rental of food service equipment or any other financial assistance extended in reliance on the representations and agreements made in this assurance.

By accepting this assurance, the Sponsor agrees to compile data, maintain records, and submit records and reports as required, to permit effective enforcement of nondiscrimination laws and permit authorized USDA personnel during hours of program operation to review and copy such records, books, and accounts, access such facilities and interview such personnel as needed to ascertain compliance with the nondiscrimination laws. If there are any violations of this assurance, the Department of Agriculture, FNS, shall have the right to seek judicial enforcement of this assurance. This assurance is binding on the Sponsor, its successors, transferees and assignees as long as it receives assistance or retains possession of any assistance from USDA.

OSPI provides equal access to all programs and services without discrimination based on sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. Questions and complaints of alleged discrimination should be directed to the Equity and Civil Rights Director at 360-725-6162/TTY: 360-664-3631; or P.O. Box 47200, Olympia, WA 98504-7200; or equity@k12.wa.us.