

Important Notice About Your Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT)

You are receiving this letter because one or more children in your household would normally get free or reduced-price meals at school during the 2021-2022 school year through the National School Lunch Program and because your child's attendance record reported by their school showed days of quarantine and/or temporary virtual instruction caused by COVID-19, your household is now eligible to receive \$7.10 in benefits per eligible day in quarantine or temporary virtual instruction (as recognized by your school) to help buy food for your school-aged child. This program is called Student Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT) and is run by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. You can receive this benefit along with other benefits that you currently receive. P-EBT eligibility and benefit amount will be determined each month using school records and students will get P-EBT benefits based on their school attendance. Benefits will be issued at the end of the month following the month they are eligible for benefits.

Your student is eligible for some P-EBT benefits this year and falls in **one of three categories**:

Category #1: You did not receive P-EBT last school year.

Be on the lookout in the coming week(s) for your P-EBT card (see #3 if you get FNS benefits), which will arrive by mail. Your card is linked to your P-EBT account with food benefits. This notice provides instructions on how to activate and use your P-EBT card.

Category #2: You already received P-EBT last school year.

You may continue to use the P-EBT card you previously received to access your P-EBT benefits in most cases. If you receive a new P-EBT card, your benefits will be added to the new card.

Category #3: You are a current Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) recipient with an FNS EBT card.

If you already receive FNS, the P-EBT benefits will be added to your active FNS EBT card. Most FNS recipients will not receive a separate P-EBT card. If you do receive a P-EBT card, your P-EBT benefits will be added to the P-EBT card.

How to activate a new card OR order a new card if you have lost or destroyed your P-EBT card:

The card works just like a debit card. Before you can use your card, **you must first activate your card** and select a Personal Identification Number (PIN). There are three ways to activate, check your balance, or replace your card:

1. Visit www.ebtedge.com. Click on "More Information" under EBT Cardholder, then login and/or register your account.
2. Download and use the **ebtEDGE** mobile app (available on Google Play or Apple Store).
3. Contact the North Carolina **EBT Call Center at 1-888-622-7328** and follow the automated instructions.

IMPORTANT: Your activation code to create your PIN will be the date of birth (DOB) of the youngest school-aged child in your household. It may be necessary to try the DOB for each child in your household. Enter the DOB using two digits for the month, two digits for the day, and four digits for the year. For example, if the date of birth is June 1, 2008, you would enter 06012008.

The P-EBT card can be used to purchase food items at EBT authorized retailers, including most major grocery stores.

Items you CAN Buy with a P-EBT Card:

- Breads, cereals, fruits, vegetables
- Meats, fish, poultry, dairy products
- Bottled water and non-alcoholic beverages
- Seeds and plants that produce food

Items you CANNOT Buy with a P-EBT Card:

- Beer, wine, liquor, cigarettes, tobacco
- Any nonfood items, such as: pet foods, soaps, household supplies, vitamins, medicine
- Hot foods or food that is already prepared

Other Key Information and Questions

You may decline this benefit by destroying your P-EBT card. Receiving P-EBT benefits does not impact your immigration status and will not impact a future immigration application you may file. Selling FNS or P-EBT benefits for cash is illegal and punishable by criminal prosecution. You do not have to spend all benefits at once. The benefits you receive will remain available up to 365 days.

If you have questions about P-EBT, visit North Carolina's P-EBT website at ncdhhs.gov/PEBT and view answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). If your question is not answered on the website, you can call the EBT Call Center at 1-866-719-0141.

If you have questions about the free and reduced-price meal program, please contact your child's school for more information.