

New York's Pandemic-EBT Plan Approved

NYS OTDA FAQ on Pandemic-EBT

New York's plan to distribute Pandemic-Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) benefits has been [approved by USDA](#). The program will provide benefits to approximately 2.1 million children across the state who have lost access to free or reduced-price school meals due to school closures. P-EBT is a crisis response nutrition program, that has been activated as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Highlights from the plan include:

- All children who qualify for free or reduced-price school meals will receive Pandemic-EBT benefits, including those who attend school where all students receive free meals through the Community Eligibility Provision.
- Pandemic-EBT does not replace or affect eligibility for other nutrition programs; families can continue receiving emergency meals distributed by schools, SNAP, WIC, summer meals and/or meals in childcare in addition to Pandemic-EBT.
- Eligible families will receive a set amount of funds on an EBT card to purchase groceries at retailers that accept EBT Benefits. Visit fns.usda.gov/snap for more information on participating retailers and eligible food items.
- Benefit amounts will be \$5.70 per child, for each day that school is closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic—equivalent to USDA's daily reimbursement for free breakfast and lunch.
- Families do not need to apply to receive Pandemic-EBT. Benefits will be issued automatically on existing EBT cards for households already receiving SNAP, Public Assistance or Medicaid. New cards will be mailed to all other eligible households who currently do not have an EBT card.
- Distribution will be staggered, with families receiving benefits at different times over the next several months.

We are developing resources to help schools and community-based organizations share information with families about what to expect and how to use their Pandemic-EBT benefits.

We will continue to send [email updates](#), post updates to our website, and use Facebook and Twitter to share additional information as it becomes available.