

Alabama SUN Bucks Outreach Guide

**SUN BUCKS
ARE BACK!**

Alabama SUN Bucks provides \$120 in extra grocery benefits for each eligible child over the summer. It's just one way to make sure that kids in our community have access to the healthy food they usually get at school.

Most eligible children are automatically enrolled in the program, but some will need to apply.

Trusted community members (like you!) can help spread the word about SUN Bucks. Your support is crucial to ensuring no child goes hungry during summer break. Help families in your community understand, apply for, and use SUN Bucks support by sharing information about this program.

KEY MESSAGES TO SHARE WITH FAMILIES THIS YEAR



Spring Messaging

APRIL - EARLY MAY

Alabama SUN Bucks offers families \$120 in extra grocery support over the summer for each eligible child! Use this easy online tool to see if your child will be automatically enrolled or needs to apply:

alabama-sunbucks.com/EBTEligibilityCheck



End of School Messaging

MAY - EARLY JUNE

When school is out, Alabama SUN Bucks are in! Alabama SUN Bucks offers families \$120 in extra grocery support over the summer for each eligible child! Use this easy online tool to see if your child is automatically enrolled or needs to apply:

alabama-sunbucks.com/EBTEligibilityCheck



Over the Summer Messaging

JUNE - AUGUST 15

Don't miss out on \$120 in extra grocery support through Alabama SUN Bucks for kids! Alabama SUN Bucks benefits expire after about 4 months. Be sure to use them before they expire - any unused benefits will be removed and can't be carried over to future years.

If you haven't received Alabama SUN Bucks yet, there's still time! The deadline to apply for 2026 benefits is August 15, 2026.

Apply online at alabama-sunbucks.com.



Back to School Messaging

AUGUST 16 - OCTOBER

Have you spent your \$120 Alabama SUN Bucks benefits?

Be sure to use them before they expire after 4 months - any unused benefits will be removed and can't be carried over to future years.

Have questions or need support?

Visit alabama-sunbucks.com or call 1-800-443-3536

Understanding Alabama SUN Bucks

ELIGIBILITY & ENROLLMENT

Who's eligible for Alabama SUN Bucks AND will be automatically enrolled?

School age children who attend a school that takes part in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and meets any of the following will be automatically enrolled in Alabama SUN Bucks: they participate in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Children between the ages of 6-17 that do NOT attend a school that offers NSLP are automatically enrolled in Alabama SUN Bucks if they participate in SNAP or TANF. Families can quickly see if their students will be automatically enrolled or if they need to apply at

alabama-sunbucks.com/EBTEligibilityCheck.

Who's eligible for Alabama SUN Bucks AND needs to apply?

If a child is not automatically enrolled in Alabama SUN Bucks, they are eligible via a SUN Bucks application if they attend a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and belong to households with incomes **at or below 185% of the federal poverty guidelines**. We recommend encouraging students who meet these criteria to apply. Families can quickly see if their students will be automatically enrolled or if they need to apply at

alabama-sunbucks.com/EBTEligibilityCheck.

How do families apply for Alabama SUN Bucks?

Families should first check if they need to apply using Alabama's SUN Bucks eligibility checker. When applying, families will be asked to provide the child's name, school, date of birth, address, and household income. Online and paper applications can be found at alabama-sunbucks.com.

When is the application deadline?

The deadline for 2026 benefits is August 15, 2026.

RECEIVING SUN BUCKS

How and when are Alabama SUN Bucks benefits delivered?

Each enrolled child will get a one-time \$120 benefit on a pre-loaded EBT card. A new EBT card will be sent to the mailing address on file for each enrolled child. Beginning in June 2026, Alabama SUN Bucks cards will be mailed out as children are approved for benefits.

Have questions or need support?

Visit alabama-sunbucks.com or call **1-800-443-3536**

USING SUN BUCKS BENEFITS

Do Alabama SUN Bucks funds expire?

Yes! The \$120 benefit expires 122 days (about 4 months) after it's issued. Remind families to use their funds so they don't miss out. Benefits cannot be replaced once they expire. This is an important message to share with your families during back-to-school season!

What other meal programs are available for kids this summer?

Alabama SUN Bucks works alongside the Alabama Summer Meals programs to help make sure kids get nutritious food all summer. Children who get Alabama SUN Bucks can also get free summer meals. Visit breakforaplate.com/summer to find free summer meals near you!

TROUBLESHOOTING

What should a family do if they have moved or need to change their address?

Families can use the Alabama SUN Bucks portal to update this information. After logging in, they should open the SUN Bucks Application, select Parent/Guardian Details, update the address and click save. The portal can be found at alabama-sunbucks.com. Can't use the portal? Contact Alabama SUN Bucks customer support at **1-800-443-3536** for assistance.

What should someone do if they lose their card?

Families should first make sure Alabama SUN Bucks has their current mailing address so that new cards are sent to the right place. To request a replacement card, call Alabama EBT Customer Service at **1-800-997-8888**, choose the preferred language, and listen to the prompts asking for an EBT card number. They should not enter any information. After the third prompt, they will automatically be connected to a live Customer Service Representative for help.

How can a family activate and PIN their card?

Call Alabama EBT Customer Service at **1-800-997-8888** (number on back of card), select the option for activating cards. When activating the card, they must enter the child listed on the card's date of birth (entered as MMDDYYYY) and zip code exactly as on file with Alabama SUN Bucks. They will be prompted to choose a unique 4-digit PIN (repeating numbers or numbers in order, such as 1111 or 1234 are not allowed and it will prompt to choose a different PIN).

What information or instructions do families receive about Alabama SUN Bucks?

Once a child is automatically enrolled or an application has been submitted, families will receive mailed notices addressed to the child. If approved for benefits, they will be mailed instructions on how to activate their Alabama SUN Bucks card(s), and the benefit card itself will arrive in a separate envelope. Encourage families to keep all Alabama SUN Bucks paperwork just to be safe.