



Arizona SUN Bucks Outreach Guide



SUN Bucks provides **\$120** in extra grocery benefits for each eligible child over the summer. It's just one way to make sure 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 by sharing information about this program.

KEY MESSAGES TO SHARE WITH FAMILIES THIS YEAR



End of School Messaging

MAY 2026

When school is out, SUN Bucks are in!

SUN Bucks benefits are mailed to your address. If you haven't received SUN Bucks, you can still apply. Find out if your child is eligible and if you need to apply at www.azed.gov/hns/sun-bucks-2026-eligibility-screener-guider.



Over the Summer Messaging

JUNE - AUGUST 3, 2026

Don't miss out on SUN Bucks support!

If you haven't received SUN Bucks yet, there's still time! The deadline to apply is **August 3, 2026**. When you apply and receive your card, be sure to keep your card for next summer! Find out if your child is eligible and if you need to apply at www.azed.gov/hns/sun-bucks-2026-eligibility-screener-guider.



Back to School Messaging

AUGUST 3 - OCTOBER 2026

Have you spent your SUN Bucks benefits?

Be sure to use them before they expire after 4 months, and keep your card for next summer!



Have questions or need extra support?

Visit www.azed.gov/SUNBucks
or call the SUN Bucks Hotline at **1-833-648-4406**

Understanding Arizona SUN Bucks

ELIGIBILITY & ENROLLMENT

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

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 Arizona SUN Bucks: they participate in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), are approved for free or reduced-price school meals, they receive Medicaid and the household income is **at or below 185% federal poverty level**, are experiencing homelessness, in foster care, in the Migrant Education Program or a runaway. Children between the ages of 6-16 that do NOT attend a NSLP school are automatically enrolled in Arizona SUN Bucks if they meet any of the above criteria.

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

If a child is not automatically enrolled in Arizona SUN Bucks, they are eligible via a SUN Bucks application if they attend a NSLP school and belong to a household with an income **at or below 185% of the federal poverty guidelines**.

Families can quickly see if their students will be automatically enrolled or if they need to apply at www.azed.gov/hns/sun-bucks-2026-eligibility-screener-guider.

How do families apply for SUN Bucks?

Families should first check if they need to apply at www.azed.gov/hns/sun-bucks-2026-eligibility-screener-guide. Families can then apply online through **the eligibility screener** or download a paper application at www.azed.gov/SUNBucks (available in **English** and **Spanish**). (It's a great idea to print the application off the website to have it ready for families who aren't online!)

When is the application deadline?

August 3, 2026

RECEIVING SUN BUCKS

What information or instructions do families receive about SUN Bucks?

Families who are enrolled in the program will receive a SUN Bucks "eligibility notice" in the mail before the card arrives. This notice includes helpful information about how to activate their card once it arrives, so it's important to keep it.

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

Families should contact the child's school to update their address. After updating it with the school, families must also report a change of address to the SUN Bucks hotline at **1-833-648-4406**.

TROUBLESHOOTING

What should someone do if they lose or need to replace their card?

The Arizona SUN Bucks cardholder must contact EBT Customer Service at **1-888-997-9333** to request a replacement card. New cards will be mailed to the address on file, so households should update their address before calling.

How can a family activate their card?

Once the card arrives in the mail, call **1-888-997-9333** to set up a PIN. They will need the 16-digit card number, the date of birth of the person named on the card, and the 8-digit case number on the letter from the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES).

USING SUN BUCKS BENEFITS

How are SUN Bucks benefits delivered?

Most households receive benefits for all eligible children on a single card. Benefits are added to the household's existing SNAP, TANF, or most recent SUN Bucks card. Children new to the program who are not enrolled in SNAP or TANF will be mailed a SUN Bucks card to the address provided by their school district or SUN Bucks application. Encourage families to confirm their mailing address is up to date with their school.

When are SUN Bucks benefits delivered?

Benefits are issued as a **one-time \$120 payment** for each eligible child, and they arrive at different times. Most benefits will arrive between May and August.

Do 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. This is an important message to share with your families during back-to-school season!

What should families do with the SUN Bucks card once they're done with it?

Families should keep any SUN Bucks cards, since they may be able to use them again next year.

What other grocery or food support programs are available over the summer?

SUN Bucks works alongside **Summer Meals programs** to help make sure kids get nutritious food all summer. Visit AZsummerMeals.org to find meal sites in your community.

Have questions or need extra support?

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