

Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT)

What are P-EBT or Pandemic EBT benefits?

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act allows children who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals at school to receive extra food benefits. These food benefits are called Pandemic EBT or P-EBT benefits. The benefits are designed to help cover costs associated with days children would have been in school; therefore, the benefits help families in Tennessee buy food when school is closed. P-EBT benefits are additional benefits that do not replace any child nutrition program meals being offered. Children may continue to receive "grab n go" meals or emergency food at COVID-19 emergency feeding sites offered by schools and community locations, even if they receive P-EBT benefits.

Who is eligible for P-EBT benefits?

Children are eligible for P-EBT benefits if:

- Their school closed due to coronavirus (COVID 19); and
- They are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals
- All students in attendance of a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school/district.

How much in P-EBT benefits will participants receive?

The program will provide \$5.70 per child per each day the child qualifies for P-EBT. Qualifying families will receive P-EBT support in two installments, one for meals in March and April initially, and then one additional disbursement later next month for May meals.

What can P-EBT benefits buy and how do you use P-EBT benefits?

P-EBT benefits can buy food at most grocery stores, farmer's markets and online at Amazon and Walmart.

Use your P-EBT card like a debit card:

- Select "EBT"
- Swipe the card
- Enter your private four-digit PIN number

How to apply for P-EBT

Parents do not need to apply if they already receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits currently. The funds began arriving on the EBT card they already use beginning Friday, June 12.

Parents need to apply by 4:30pm on Monday July 13th, if they don't already receive SNAP benefits but whose children qualify for free or reduced school meals. **You can apply for the P-EBT benefit online at <https://tdhs.service-now.com>.**

Individuals who need assistance completing their P-EBT application or have general questions about the program are encouraged to call the Tennessee Department of Human Services hotline at 1-833-496-0661 and select option 3. Learn more about the Tennessee Department of Human Services at www.tn.gov/humanservices.