



July 2023

## Summer 2023 K-12 PANDEMIC EBT FAQs

*Frequently Asked Questions for School Children*

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### 1. What is Summer K-12 Pandemic EBT (P-EBT)?

Summer K-12 P-EBT is an extension of P-EBT to cover a summer period that follows a school year during which there was a public health emergency designation based on an outbreak of COVID-19.

P-EBT is administered by the South Carolina Department of Education and the South Carolina Department of Social Services.

### 2. Who is eligible for Summer K-12 P-EBT?

School children who attended a National School Lunch Program (NSLP)-participating school at the end of the 2022-23 school year and who were approved to receive free or reduced -price school meals under the NSLP or School Breakfast Program (SBP). This includes:

- School children who were approved for free or reduced-price meals during the last month of the 2022-23 school year. Because the covered summer period is an extension of the school year, this includes children who graduate at the end of the school year.
- School children who attended a school that participated in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) in school year 2022-2023. Click [here](#) for a list of CEP schools for the 2022-23 school year.
- Children who are determined newly eligible for free or reduced-price school meals during the 2023 covered summer period. This would include students who submitted meal applications during the summer months (after June 1, 2023 and before August 15, 2023).

Please contact your child's school to determine if they are newly eligible for Summer K-12 P-EBT.

### 3. How long is the covered summer period?

South Carolina's covered summer period for the 2022-23 school year is June 1, 2023 through August 15, 2023.

**4. Who is NOT eligible for a 2023 Summer K-12 P-EBT benefit?**

Children who meet any of the following criteria are not eligible for P-EBT:

- Students who were not approved for free or reduced-price meals or not enrolled in schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program for the 2022-23 school year.
- Students who are being homeschooled for the 2022-2023 school year.

**5. How much is the 2023 Summer K-12 P-EBT benefit amount?**

The U.S. standard benefit amount for the 2023 Summer K-12 P-EBT children is \$120.

**6. How can I verify/update the mailing address for my student's P-EBT card?**

The P-EBT Address Verification Portal (<https://benefitsportal.dss.sc.gov/#/pebt/addressverification>) will be opened from July 14, 2023 until August 10, 2023 at 5PM. To access your child's address information please have the following information:

Student's Last Name, Student's Date of Birth, Student Number, School District, and School attended for the 2022-2023 school year.

Address information cannot be verified or updated after August 10, 2023 at 5PM.

If you cannot locate your child's school in the P-EBT Address Verification portal, please verify with your child's school that they participated in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or was a Community Eligible Provision (CEP) school for the 2022-23 school year.

**7. Are 4K students eligible for Summer K-12 P-EBT?**

Children who attend a 4K program in a CEP school or were approved for a free or reduced-price meals program for the 2022-23 school year are eligible for Summer K-12 P-EBT. Please check the list of participating schools on the DSS website or contact your child's school for verification of eligibility.

**8. Are Head Start children eligible for Summer K-12 P-EBT?**

Children who attend a Head Start program in a CEP school or were enrolled in free or reduced-price meals program for the 2022-23 school year are eligible for Summer K-12 P-EBT. Please check the list of participating schools on the DSS website. Children enrolled in Head Start programs operated outside of a public school are not eligible for Summer K-12 P-EBT.

**9. Do I or my child have to be a citizen to be eligible for P-EBT?**

No. Summer K-12 P-EBT benefits are for all school aged children who are approved for free or reduced-price school meals.

**10. When can I expect to receive Summer K-12 P-EBT card for my child?**

South Carolina will issue 2023 Summer K-12 P-EBT benefits retroactively.

2023 Summer K-12 P-EBT cards are expected to mail out **after September 9, 2023**. Due to the high volume of P-EBT cards entering the mailing stream, delivery times for Summer K-12 P-EBT cards will vary. Please allow a minimum of 15 business days, after the card's mailing, for card arrival.

2023 Summer K-12 P-EBT cards for newly eligible students (NSLP applications submitted between June 1, 2023 and August 15, 2023) are expected to mail out after October 13, 2023.

**11. Can I receive my child's P-EBT benefits faster by calling my county office?**

Calls to local County DSS offices or to the State DSS office will not result in faster processing of P-EBT benefits. **Please do not call your local DSS County office with questions about P-EBT.**

**12. What should I do if I feel my child should have received 2023 Summer K-12 P-EBT benefits but did not?**

If your child did not receive 2023 Summer K-12 P-EBT benefits and they meet the eligible criteria outlined in Question #2, please contact your child's school or school district to determine the child's free or reduced meal status.

***DSS does not determine eligibility status for P-EBT benefits.***

**13. What if an eligible Summer K-12 P-EBT household does not want to participate in the Summer K-12 P-EBT program?**

If an eligible household receives a P-EBT card and does not want to participate in the program, the household should destroy the P-EBT card. The P-EBT card and food benefit **cannot be transferred** to anyone else or used by someone outside your household.

**14. What can be purchased with the Summer K-12 P-EBT benefit?**

Purchasing rules are the same for SNAP and Summer K-12 P-EBT. Summer K-12 P-EBT benefits can be used to purchase food for a household, such as:

- fresh, frozen, canned, or dried fruits and vegetables
- meat, poultry, fish, dairy products, eggs
- cereal, bread, pasta, rice
- any ingredients you use for cooking
- baby formula
- diabetic foods
- snack foods and non-alcoholic beverages
- seeds and plants for growing food at home

**Summer K-12 P-EBT benefits CANNOT be used to buy:**

- beer, wine, liquor, cigarettes, or tobacco
- vitamins, medicines, and supplements
- prepared foods, hot foods
- non-food items (pet foods, cleaning supplies, paper products, hygiene items, or cosmetics)

**15. What retailers accept P-EBT?**

P-EBT benefits can be used to purchase food items at retailers displaying a SNAP logo/signage. Find the closest retailer where you can use your benefits at:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/retailer-locator>



**16. When will my Summer K-12 P-EBT benefit expire?**

P-EBT benefits expire 274 days after issuance.

**17. How do I request a replacement P-EBT card?**

To check your balance or report your P-EBT card lost, stolen, or damaged, call 1-800-554-5268.

Unless the delivery address is incorrect, please do not request a 2022-2023 P-EBT replacement card until after the estimated delivery timeframe of September 9, 2023.

**18. Do I have to use all my Summer K-12 P-EBT benefit when I get them?**

No. The benefit will carry over from month to month. Benefits not used within 274 days of issuance will be automatically removed from the card.

**19. Do Summer K-12 P-EBT benefits replace summer feeding programs or other community feeding programs for children and families?**

No. The Summer K-12 P-EBT benefit is provided in addition to other meal programs; it does not replace them.

**20. I am a grocery retailer interested in becoming an approved SNAP/P-EBT merchant. What do I need to do?**

Grocery retailers/food stores in SC who are interested in accepting SNAP/EBT must contact the USDA for approval. Visit online at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/apply-to-accept>.