



The new round of Pandemic EBT benefits will be distributed starting at the end of July 2021. Below are some questions and answers designed to support partners in answering community questions. This document will be updated frequently as new questions come in.

PANDEMIC EBT Q&A:

Last updated 6.10.21

Q: What is Pandemic EBT? How do I know if my family is eligible?

A: Pandemic EBT provides families with grocery money to cover the cost of school meals during school closures, reduced hours and attendance, or remote learning. This benefit is provided automatically to ALL families whose children during a typical school year are eligible to receive free and reduced-price school meals in Oregon, [including those that attend a school where all students are provided with free meals during normal operations](#).

Children under the age of six, are eligible under the following circumstances:

- Attend a school-based preschool, or school based Headstart that normally participates in the National School Lunch Program.
- Receive SNAP, [more information below](#).

Q: What amount of benefits can I expect?

A: Benefits will be issued based on a schools specific reopening status such as: closed or fully remote, hybrid, or fully in-person. Benefits will be calculated by month for each eligible child's school district and benefits will be issued retroactively for the months of October 2020 through May 2021 and loaded onto a benefit card. [See more on the distribution schedule below](#).

Benefits will be distributed in the following amounts:

Full benefits (majority of students virtually or school is closed) = \$136 a month per child

Partial benefits (majority of students in hybrid learning) = \$75 a month per child

No benefits (majority of students in person) = \$0 a month per child

The amount of benefits received per child *will vary by month as a school's reopening status* may have varied in the last year.

Q: When will I receive my Pandemic EBT benefits?

A:

[UPDATE 7/22/21]: PEBT benefits will be issued starting July 22. P-EBT cards will be mailed to families from a return address in South Dakota. [Learn more via this ODHS/ODE press release](#).

The first round of benefits will be issued to families starting at the end of July and will be distributed through September 2021. Benefits will be distributed according to the following schedule:

- Oct through Dec 2020 benefits issued no later than July 30, 2021
- Jan through Mar 2021 benefits issued no later than August 30, 2021
- March through May 2021 benefits issued no later than September 30, 2021

In addition, if you have not yet received a September 2020 P-EBT benefit, a full P-EBT benefit of \$136 will be retroactively issued for eligible children. Supplements will also be issued to households who received less than \$100 for September 2020. If you do not receive this supplement by September 2021 and believe you were eligible at the time, [you can also contact the hotline](#).

More information can be found on [the Oregon Department of Human Services' Pandemic EBT page](#).

Q: I never received Pandemic EBT, but I think I am eligible. Who do I contact?

A: [Update 7/22/21]: If you are expecting PEBT benefits, but have not received them by August 15th, please contact the PEBT hotline or the email address listed below.

2-1-1 will be operating a hotline beginning July 1st and can provide you information specific to your household and it's benefits. Contact the PEBT hotline at 503-945-6481 or email EBTschoolmeals@dhsosha.state.or.us. Assistance is provided in multiple languages.

If you have not received benefits for the October 2020 and May 2021 period, please contact the hotline after the stated distribution date. [For more information on when benefits will be distributed, please see above](#).

Q: My school serves meals for free for all students, and I have never filled out a Free and Reduced Price school meal application. Am I eligible for Pandemic EBT?

A: Yes, if your school provides free school meals through a program called the [Community Eligibility Provision](#) (CEP). [You can find a list of participating schools here](#). If your school is a CEP school, you **do not** need to fill out a Free and Reduced Price application - your child/children attending this school will automatically receive Pandemic EBT.

Q: My family has never applied for free and reduced price meals and my child does not go to a school that provides free school meals to all. Can I still get Pandemic EBT benefits?

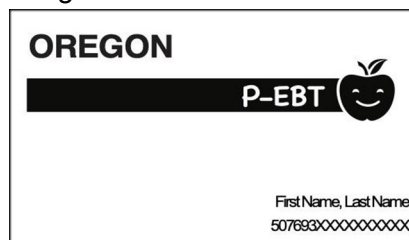
A: Yes, [your household income may qualify you for free school meals](#), especially if your family's income has changed in the past year. If you have never applied for free school meals in the past and believe your family may be eligible, please fill out the Free and Reduced Price school meal application through [the Oregon Department Education's online portal](#) or contact your school for more information. Any household that qualifies for free school meals will automatically receive Pandemic EBT benefits. The deadline to apply for free school meals and still receive this round of Pandemic EBT benefits is June 30, 2021.

Q: How will my benefits be sent to me?

A: *For households that do not receive SNAP:* The process of receiving Pandemic EBT benefits is slightly different this year. Each child in a household will be automatically issued benefits on a separate card. For those that still have the card they received PEBT benefits on last year, benefits will be issued on this card for the oldest child in the household and new cards will be issued and mailed to you with benefits for any other children. The benefit card will be mailed to

the most recent address on file at the child's school. If a family's address has changed, please contact the child's school district by July 20th to make sure benefits are mailed to the correct address.

Image of new PEBT card:



For SNAP households: P-EBT benefits will be loaded on the same card as your SNAP benefits. The P-EBT issuance will be different than your normal SNAP issuance date.

Q: I lost my Pandemic EBT card from last year, what do I do?

A: If you no longer have your previous Pandemic EBT card, you can get a new one by calling the Oregon Trail Card replacement line, 1-855-328-6715 or emailing OregonTrailCardDHS.Replacement@dhsosha.state.or.us. P-EBT replacement card requests will be accepted starting July 15th.

Q: I received a benefit card for my child and I am worried that using it will affect my immigration status.

A: P-EBT benefits **will not** be subject to a public charge test and receiving benefits **will not** impact immigration status or any citizenship processes.

Q: I have a child under the age of 6 who is not enrolled in school, will they receive benefits?

A: If your child under 6 attends a school-based preschool, or school-based Head Start program that normally participates in the National School Lunch Program, you will automatically receive Pandemic EBT benefits.

Households with children under 6 who receive SNAP are also eligible to receive Pandemic EBT. In these SNAP households:

- Children ages 0-5 will automatically receive P-EBT on the same card as the household receives SNAP.
- Children age 6 who are not yet enrolled in school, must verify enrollment at a childcare setting. Verification can be emailed to ebt.schoolmeals@dhsosha.state.or.us or uploaded through [ONE Applicant portal](#).

Benefit amounts for children under 6 will depend on the status of schools in your county.

Q: Would this include incoming Kindergarteners as long as they are registered for the fall 2021?

A: The benefits are retroactive from October 2020 to May 2021. This means that children would have to be enrolled and eligible to receive free school meals during that time period.

However, the child may still be eligible to receive benefits if they were enrolled in a school-based preschool, or school-based Head Start that normally participates in the National School Lunch Program during the October 2020 to May 2021 time period. Or they may be eligible if they fit any of the [“children under 6” eligibility criteria](#).

Q: Where can I use my Pandemic EBT benefits? Can I double them at farmers markets?

A: Benefits can be used to purchase food at places that families normally shop for food like grocery stores, corner stores, and farmers markets.

Families can “double” their Pandemic EBT benefits at Oregon farmers markets that offer this option. This means that families can spend \$10 of their PEBT benefits and receive an additional \$10 to shop at the farmers market. [Find participating markets](#). [Learn more about Oregon Double Up Food Bucks](#).

Q: I heard there will be more P-EBT benefits available?

A: It is possible that additional P-EBT benefits will be available to families over the summer months, more information to come soon. In case of future benefits, it is important to keep any Pandemic EBT benefits cards you receive. This card will remain active and allow quick access to any future P-EBT benefits.