

Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer Program (P-EBT)

Frequently Asked Questions

Program and Card Information

Q: When should families expect to receive the P-EBT benefits?

A: The combined March/April benefits will be issued for all households by the end of the first week of May. The combined May/June benefits will be issued by the end of May. For families who currently receive Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits, the issuance of the May/June benefits will closely align with the FAP issuance schedule.

Q: Will P-EBT benefits be displayed in Bridges?

A: For current, active FAP households, P-EBT benefits will be displayed on the Bridges Benefit Summary Inquiry screen. For children who are not part of an active FAP case, there will be no information available in Bridges.

Q: Who will receive a P-EBT card for these benefits?

A: Students who are not active FAP and live at the same address will be grouped together and the card will be sent to the oldest student at that address.

Q: When will P-EBT cards be mailed out?

A: The first cards start mailing out April 26th and will continue through the middle of May.

Q: I need to update my address, who do I contact?

A: The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is not able to update your address. You need to reach out to your child's school to update your address.

Q: Can the EBT card only be used if the child whose name is on the card is present with the adult?

A: No. The EBT card will have the name of the oldest child on it. The benefits that are issued for P-EBT should be accessed by the parent/guardian.

Q: For joint-custody situations, which parent/guardian will receive the P-EBT card?

A: The card will be sent to the address that is currently on file at your child's school.

Q: What should a household do if they do not want to use the benefits that have been given?

A: If a household chooses not to access the P-EBT benefits that have been issued to them, they should follow the instructions provided on the client letter on how to destroy the EBT card.

Q: Are P-EBT benefits considered ongoing assistance benefits for the purpose of the Public Charge rules? Or will P-EBT impact an individual's pursuit of citizenship or permanent residence status?

A: No. Receipt of P-EBT will not have an impact on Public Charge determinations.

P-EBT Student Eligibility

Q: Some school districts qualify for a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) where all children are eligible for free meals, regardless of income. Are those children eligible for P-EBT?

A: In schools where all students receive free lunch and breakfast, which in Michigan is the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), all students will automatically receive the P-EBT benefits.

Q: Is there a citizenship/alien status eligibility requirement for P-EBT benefits?

A: No. There is no citizenship/alien status test for receipt of P-EBT benefits.

Q: Are children who reside in the household of a state employee eligible for P-EBT benefits?

A: Yes. If the child qualifies for the free school lunch program, then they are eligible to receive P-EBT benefits. P-EBT benefits are not considered a public assistance benefit. Receipt of P-EBT does not constitute a conflict of interest for state employees.

Q: Are 18-26 year old special education students eligible for P-EBT?

A: Eligible, enrolled special education students are eligible for P-EBT benefits.

Q: Do children that are homeschooled qualify for this program?

A: Unfortunately, homeschool children were not included in the list for P-EBT because they are not in the public school records. However, all Michigan children are eligible to participate in one of available Meet Up Eat Up sites. You can look for the closest site to your home at: www.michigan.gov/meetupeatup or Dial 211 to find out more information on resources in your local community.

Q: Is my child in Great Start Readiness Programs (GSRP) going to receive the P-EBT benefit?

A: Students in Great Start Readiness Programs, GSRP/Headstart Blends, Early Headstart, and Headstart that were reported as part of the Early Childhood Collection data report to the state of Michigan, as eligible for Free and Reduced-Price Meals or directly certified have been included. Please check with your program to confirm your child's program reported in the Early Childhood Collection.:

Q: We recently lost our job or took a significant loss in income. What should I do to receive the benefit?

A: Please reach out to your local school/district to learn how to complete an application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals. Your child's school/district will have to report the change in Free and Reduced-Price Meal eligibility to the state of Michigan to make you eligible for P-EBT.