



Arizona Department of Education

Health and Nutrition Services Division

HNS# 24-2020

MEMORANDUM

To: Local Educational Agencies Operating the National School Lunch Program

From: Melissa Conner, Associate Superintendent
Arizona Department of Education, Health and Nutrition Services Division

Date: May 5, 2020

Subject: Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Administered in Arizona

Original Signed

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform all School Food Authorities (SFAs) that the state of Arizona has been approved to operate Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) administered through the Department of Economic Security (DES) and to inform SFAs of the datasets provided to DES for P-EBT disbursement.

P-EBT is a new program authorized by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, signed by President Trump, which provides assistance to families of children eligible for free or reduced-price meals experiencing school closures. P-EBT is a supplemental food purchasing benefit provided to current SNAP participants and EBT benefit to other eligible households to offset the cost of meals that would have otherwise been consumed at school.

A student is eligible for P-EBT benefits if they meet one of the following criteria:

- Attends a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and is eligible for free or reduced-priced meal benefits
- Attends a school that participates in the NSLP that also participates under the Community Eligibility Provision
- Attends a school that participates in the NSLP that also participates in the Provision 2 or Provision 3 Provision for both breakfast and lunch.

The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) is providing data to DES on a weekly basis to identify eligible students without the need for a household to complete an application for P-EBT. The dataset contains student information from the following sources:

- Schools that participate in NSLP and identify student eligibility using Income I and Income II indicators reported to the Arizona State Arizona Education Standards (AzEDs) via the SFA's Student Information System (SIS)

- Schools that participate in a Special Provision Option (CEP, Provision 2, Provision 3) and report enrollment to AzEDs via an SFA's SIS
- Schools that participate in NSLP and do not report data to AzEDs but send eligibility information to ADE manually

Any eligible students not identified in the above will be able to apply online in mid-May on the DES webpage: <https://des.az.gov/services/basic-needs/food-assistance/arizona-p-ebt-pandemic-school-meal-replacement-benefits>.

Questions and Answers

- 1. Where can households find more information about P-EBT?** DES has created a webpage dedicated to P-EBT: <https://des.az.gov/services/basic-needs/food-assistance/arizona-p-ebt-pandemic-school-meal-replacement-benefits>.
- 2. What is the P-EBT Customer Service Hotline phone number?** 1-844-841-3802. This hotline is available Monday – Friday from 7:30am – 5:00pm.
- 3. What can a household do if they do not receive a P-EBT card?** Beginning mid-May, DES will have an online application portal for the households to apply for the P-EBT benefit.
- 4. If a parent has questions about the eligibility status of a student, can they contact ADE?** No. ADE is unable to share a student's eligibility status. DES's P-EBT hotline (1-844-841-3802) may be utilized to determine the status of a P-EBT benefit.
- 5. Will P-EBT replace the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) put into place due to COVID-19?** No, the P-EBT benefit is a different program and a school should not cease operation of the SFSP program due to the issuance of P-EBT benefits. All eligible children will receive P-EBT benefits regardless of the child's participation in the SFSP.
- 6. If a student does not attend a school that participates in NSLP, is the student eligible for this benefit?** No.
- 7. If an SFA receives a new household application for free and reduced-price meals, can it be processed?** Yes, SFAs may process the new application as normal. Please ensure the school registrar also updates the Income I and Income II Eligibility indicators in the SIS appropriately so that AzEDs is updated. The update in Income I or Income II Eligibility indicators will be captured in the weekly data submission to DES.
- 8. If a household has a change in income since school has closed, does the household have to submit a new household application for free and reduced-price meals in order to be granted P-EBT benefits?** No, the household could apply for P-EBT through the online application portal on the DES webpage (<https://des.az.gov/services/basic-needs/food-assistance/arizona-p-ebt-pandemic-school-meal-replacement-benefits>) beginning mid-May.

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