



Illinois State Board of Education

SY20-21 P-EBT Basic Overview and Question and Answer Webinar

Working in Partnership with the Illinois Department of Human Services (IL DHS)

Today's Agenda

- What is P-EBT?
- Determining School Eligibility
 - *Illinois P-EBT Qualified Sponsor Survey in WINS*
- Determining Student Eligibility
- School Data Needed for P-EBT Issuances
- P-EBT Issuances to Eligible Students
- Additional P-EBT Instructions, Sample Letters, Training Webinars
- ISBE P-EBT Contact Information for School Assistance



Acronyms Used Today

- CEP- Community Eligibility Provision
- FRL – Free/Reduced Lunch
- IL DHS – Illinois Department of Human Services
- NSLP – National School Lunch Program
- P-EBT – Pandemic – Electronic Benefit Transfer
- SSO – Seamless Summer Options, under NSLP
- SIS – Student Information System
- SFSP – Summer Food Service Program
- USDA – United States Department of Agriculture
- WINS – Web-Based Illinois Nutrition System



What is P-EBT?

- P-EBT is a USDA food assistance benefit available to families with students who would have been offered free or reduced-price meals to consume at school while attending school but are not receiving these in school meals due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- SY20-21 P-EBT requirements are markedly different than the prior P-EBT issuances due to changes in USDA (Federal) requirements, as well as based on the Illinois approved plan.



Illinois SY20-21 P-EBT

- The current plan seeks to ensure that all eligible students receive P-EBT benefits as timely as possible. This is dependent upon accurate, timely data received from all Illinois eligible schools.
- Schools nor students have to apply for P-EBT benefits for SY20-21. Data submitted by Illinois eligible schools will be used to issue P-EBT benefits.
- For each eligible P-EBT day, a student benefit is \$6.82.



SY20-21 P-EBT Benefits

1. ISBE collects required data from ALL eligible schools, based on requirements established by Illinois approved plan.
2. ISBE, through a data share agreement, shares eligible student data with the IL DHS monthly, beginning Feb 2021.
3. IL DHS issues P-EBT benefits to ALL eligible students, beginning March 2021.



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School Eligibility for SY2020-21 P-EBT

- Schools must be a provider of the NSLP as of February 2020 and;
- The school building was closed to students or had reduced hours or attendance for at least 5 consecutive days, excluding non-school days such as holidays and weekends.
- A list of ALL eligible schools will be posted online at www.isbe.net/pebt in the near future.



Illinois P-EBT Qualified Sponsor Survey in WINS

- To provide all eligible Illinois students P-EBT benefits for SY2020-21, a basic survey will be collected via the WINS for all NSLP schools (as of February 2020) to determine school level eligibility.
- A posted training provides detailed instructions on the completion of the survey.



What data is needed to complete the survey?

- For each month of SY2020-21, a sponsor will select an option listed below for each eligible site:
 - **Option 1:**
 - **Fully Remote**
 - **Hybrid or In-Person** and **NOT** serving reimbursable meals to in person students to consume at school
 - **Option 2:**
 - **Hybrid or In-Person** and serving reimbursable meals to in person students to consume at school
 - **Option 3:**
 - **School is not in session during this month or there are no students P-EBT eligible.**



Student P-EBT benefits AND School Participation in SFSP

- If the school is currently operating SFSP, P-EBT benefits provided to students will NOT impact SFSP reimbursement to the eligible school. ALL reimbursable meals provided to students will be reimbursed through USDA funding provided by ISBE at the posted meal reimbursement rates.
- If the school is currently operating SFSP AND was a participating NSLP as of February 2020 AND the student is eligible for free or reduced-price meals or enrolled in a CEP approved school, then the student may be eligible for P-EBT benefits on a P-EBT eligible day.
- Due to the pandemic and the USDA flexibilities, most Illinois schools are participating in SFSP to utilize the flexibilities and receive higher rates of reimbursement.
- If “grab and go meals” are provided to students, this does not exclude these students from participating in the “grab and go meals” AND being eligible for the P-EBT program. The determining factor is if the reimbursable meal is offered to the student at school to consume at school.



Student Eligibility for SY2020-21 P-EBT

- Students must be enrolled in an eligible NSLP participating Illinois school and;
- Students must be determined eligible to receive free or reduced-price lunch for the 2020-21 school year (schools may use 2019-20 data if 2020-21 data has not yet been determined) OR enrolled in an approved Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school and;
- Students are P-EBT eligible on school days in which a reimbursable meal was not offered to the student to consume at school.



Data Needed to Issue P-EBT to ALL Eligible Students

- Name of the Student
- Free or Reduced-Price Meal Eligibility of the Student OR enrolled in a CEP approved school
- Mailing Address of the Student
- Number of P-EBT Eligible Days

The same data is needed for P-EBT benefits for ALL Illinois students. Based on the differences in data collection requirement, **SIS data will be used for PUBLIC schools, and the file upload function in the WINS will be used for NONPUBLIC schools.**



Eligibility Determination Guidance for P-EBT

- School Districts Operating NSLP/SBP (Not CEP-Approved)
- School Districts with Schools Approved as CEP (Operating SFSP, SSO, or NSLP/SBP)
- School Districts Operating the SFSP or SSO



Eligibility Determination Guidance for P-EBT

- **School Districts Operating NSLP/SBP (Not CEP-Approved)**
 - Last year's student eligibility (SY 2019-20) cannot be used, if the 30-day carryover period of eligibility has already expired.
 - Newly eligible free or reduced-price students for SY 2020-21 approved through household applications, categorical eligibility (homeless, migrant, or runaway) or Direct Certification are eligible for P-EBT on P-EBT eligible days.



Eligibility Determination Guidance for P-EBT

- **School Districts with Schools Approved as CEP** (Operating SFSP, SSO, or NSLP/SBP)
 - All students enrolled in CEP-approved schools are eligible for P-EBT on P-EBT eligible days.



Eligibility Determination Guidance for P-EBT

School Districts Operating the SFSP or SSO

- School districts operating SSO or SFSP and providing universal free meals can use last year's (SY 2019-20) student eligibility as a starting point for SY 2020-21 P-EBT eligibility.
- **Please NOTE: NOT ALL enrolled students are eligible for P-EBT due to SFSP or SSO participation. The student eligibility determination must be made.**
- Per USDA guidance, the eligibility carryover period for students is “paused during SSO/SFSP operations.”
- Therefore, SY 2019-20 free and reduced-price student eligibility can be used for P-EBT benefit issuance if a new eligibility determination for the student has not been made for SY 2020-21.



Eligibility Determination Guidance for P-EBT

SFSP/SSO Examples

- If a new household application is received this school year (SY 2020-21) for a student that was eligible for free or reduced-price meals in SY 2019-20 and the application is not certified for free or reduced-price meals, then the student is no longer eligible for P-EBT.
- If a student eligible for free or reduced-price meals in SY 2019-20 comes up as a “no match” through Direct Certification this school year (SY 2020-21), the student’s eligibility does not change and they are still eligible for P-EBT as the 30-day carryover period continues to be “paused” during SSO/SFSP operations.
- Students newly approved free or reduced-price meals as of this year (SY 2020-21) through approved household applications, categorical eligibility (homeless, migrant, or runaway) or Direct Certification are newly eligible for P-EBT.



What is a P-EBT Eligible Day?

- Based on USDA requirements, a school day is a P-EBT eligible day if the day is an official school day, and the student was not offered a reimbursable meal to consume at school due to reasons related to COVID-19.
- Scenarios may include a remote learning day, a day when a student is quarantining due to COVID-19, or a hybrid school day during which the student was not offered a reimbursable meal to consume at school.
- A day in which the student does not attend school for reasons other than COVID-19, such as an unexcused absence, are not P-EBT eligible days and should be excluded.



P-EBT Student Data – Public Schools

- P-EBT Data for public school students will be captured in the Student Information System (SIS).
- Data Needed
 - **Student Eligibility** – Student FR Indicator in SIS for non-CEP schools. This is not a factor if the school is participating in CEP, as all students enrolled in CEP schools are eligible.
 - **P-EBT Eligible School Days** – ISBE will use the Illinois P-EBT Qualified Sponsor Survey in WINS and monthly student attendance data in SIS to determine eligible P-EBT benefit days. ISBE strongly encourages school districts to update attendance data in SIS on a monthly basis so that P-EBT benefits may be regularly provided to students in need.
 - **Student Mailing Address** – Student’s current mailing address in SIS will be used to mail the P-EBT card to the student directly. Please ensure that the address provided is the current mailing address for the student.



Public Schools P-EBT Data in the SIS

- The SIS User Manual (<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/sis-training.pdf>) includes information on how to update the required data elements, specifically at the slides referenced below:
 - The FRL/Low Income Indicator (Non-CEP schools only) – Slides 47-52
 - Student Mailing Address – Slides 134-142
 - Student Attendance – Slides 587-607
- Any questions specific to data elements within the Student Information System, please reach out to our SIS team at the ISBE Help Desk
 - (217) 558-3600 - Option 3
 - help@isbe.net



P-EBT Student Data – Nonpublic Schools

- Data for P-EBT for nonpublic school students will be uploaded monthly in WINS.
- Data Needed
 - **Student Eligibility** – As determined by the school and submitted on the monthly file to ISBE
 - For non-CEP schools, this will include students eligible for free or reduced-price meals.
 - For a CEP school, as all enrolled students are P-EBT eligible, please upload all enrolled students.
 - **P-EBT Eligible School Days** – As determined by the school and submitted on the monthly file to ISBE.
 - **Student Mailing Address** – Student’s current mailing address, as submitted in WINS for eligible students, will be used to mail the P-EBT card to the student directly. Please ensure that the address provided is the current mailing address for the student.



SY20-21 P-EBT Benefits

1. ISBE collects required data from ALL eligible schools, based on requirements established by Illinois approved plan.
2. ISBE, through a data share agreement, shares eligible student data with the IL DHS monthly, beginning Feb 2021.
3. **IL DHS issues P-EBT benefits to ALL eligible students, beginning March 2021.**



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P-EBT Data Collection Timeline

ISBE Deadline for Monthly Data Share	DHS to Process P-EBT Benefits
February 25, 2021	March 2021
March 25, 2021	April 2021
April 25, 2021	May 2021
May 25, 2021	June 2021
June 25, 2021	July 2021
July 25, 2021	August 2021
August 25, 2021 (FINAL)	September 2021

P-EBT Benefits are currently approved by the USDA for SY20-21 or through June 30, 2021.



P-EBT Issuances



Illinois Department of Human Services

JB Pritzker, Governor · Grace B. Hou, Secretary

- IL DHS will issue the P-EBT benefits to all eligible students based on the data provided by local school districts to ISBE.
- Schools determine who is eligible for P-EBT, and as such, IL DHS will direct parent inquires regarding eligibility back to the school in which the student is enrolled.
- Each eligible student in the household will be sent a P-EBT benefit card to the address provided by the school the FIRST month of P-EBT eligibility.
- Should the eligible student receive subsequent P-EBT benefits, the benefits will be loaded on the initial card.
- The P-EBT benefit card will have the student's name on it.



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P-EBT Student Benefit Amount

- In Illinois, the P-EBT benefit amount may vary by student.
- The benefit amount is determined based on the number of P-EBT eligible days, as reported by the school.
- Each P-EBT benefit day will provide \$6.82.



ISBE P-EBT Website - <https://www.isbe.net/pebt>

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NUTRITION
School Nutrition Programs

Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer
(P-EBT)

NUTRITION

PANDEMIC ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER (P-EBT)

The Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program is part of the U.S. government response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of P-EBT is to provide food assistance to families with students who would have received free or reduced lunch while attending school but are not receiving these meals in school due to COVID-19 restrictions. For questions about P-EBT, please email pebt@isbe.net.

- Important P-EBT Update: Register for Feb. 3 Webinar  (1/29/2021)
- Initial Notice to NSLP Sponsors Regarding SY 2020-21 P-EBT Benefits  (1/22/2021)
- Instructions to Complete the Illinois P-EBT Qualified Sponsor Survey 
- Non-Public Schools Instructions to Update P-EBT Data in WINS 
- P-EBT SY 20-21 Basic Overview and Q&A Webinar  (2/3/2021)
- Public Schools Instructions to Update P-EBT Data in SIS 
- Sample Notice to Households
 - CEP schools 
 - Non-CEP schools 
- SY 20-21 P-EBT: Completing the Illinois P-EBT Qualified Sponsor Survey in WINS
 - Presentation 
- SY 20-21 P-EBT: Uploading Data in WINS (Non-Public NSLP Eligible School)
 - Presentation 

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- U.S. Department of Agriculture: State Guidance on Coronavirus Pandemic EBT
- Illinois Department of Human Services



We are happy to help! Please reach out.

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Contact Us



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217/782-2491

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