

Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (Summer EBT) and Illinois Schools – Summer 2024

In Partnership with the Illinois Department
of Human Services (DHS)

Webinar: March 20, 2024

We now have **3** ways to combat summer hunger in **Illinois**



SFSP/SSO Meals:
group onsite meals



SFSP/SSO Meals To-Go:
to-go or meal delivery
in some rural areas



Summer EBT/SUN Bucks:
grocery shopping benefits

What is Summer EBT?

- Summer EBT is a NEW federal nutrition program that provides a grocery benefit during the summer months to families with children eligible for free or reduced price school meals.
- The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 ([P.L 117-328](#)) authorized this permanent, nationwide Program beginning in 2024.
- Summer EBT is designed to reduce childhood hunger.
- Beginning in summer 2024, Illinois will participate in this new nationwide permanent Summer EBT program.
- Eligible children will receive a one-time benefit of \$120 per summer on an EBT card to purchase food.

Summer EBT Benefits - Summer 2024

ISBE, in partnership with the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) will implement this program, with support from NSLP participating schools.

ISBE Roles (partnering agency)

- Collect required data from ALL eligible schools, based on requirements established by Illinois approved plan
- Through a data share agreement with IDHS, shares eligible student data with them for benefit issuance
- Provide technical assistance to Illinois schools about Summer EBT

IDHS Roles (coordinating agency)

- Issues S-EBT benefits to ALL eligible students, beginning Summer 2024
- Provide customer service to Summer EBT families regarding access and use of their benefits



Who is Eligible for Summer EBT?

In general, students who are income-eligible, able to be directly certified, or categorically eligible for free or reduced-price school meals are eligible for Summer EBT.

There are two main pathways to eligibility for Summer EBT:

1. Streamlined Certification (Streamlined certification is intended to capture the bulk of the participating population, because it enables families to receive benefits automatically.)
2. Summer EBT application

Action for SFAs related to 2024 Summer EBT

- 1. Determine Student Eligibility**
- 2. Submit Student Eligibility Data to ISBE**
- 3. Distribute Outreach Materials regarding Summer EBT**



Illinois Summer EBT for 2024

In Illinois, for the Summer EBT issuance for 2024, the following data sets will be used:

- All children that receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Income Eligible Medicaid (Free and Reduced Price eligible) as well as foster children (Youth in Care) within the compulsory school age (age 6 on or before September 1st through age 17), during the preceding school year (July 1 through current annually)
- Students that are eligible for free or reduced-price meals **enrolled in NSLP participating school**. (regardless of the student's age)
 - Information specific to the NSLP participating school will be detailed next.
 - **CEP Approved Public School**
 - **Non-CEP Approved Public School**
 - **Non-Public NSLP Participating Schools**
- A Summer EBT statewide application will be available for students that are enrolled **in an NSLP participating school**, but not otherwise known to ISBE via the SIS indicator or the WINS uploaded data.
 - Schools and/or ISBE will process submitted Summer EBT applications.
 - Anticipate the Illinois Summer EBT statewide application to be available early April 2024.
 - Paper application with possible electronic application available
 - For Summer 2024, verification for cause is required.

Summer EBT Eligibility: CEP Approved Public School

- Under the program requirements established by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for Summer EBT, schools approved under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) require students who are not directly certified or categorically eligible, that wish to receive Summer EBT benefits, to reside in a household that is at or below the NSLP income threshold for reduced price meal benefits. (185% of the federal poverty level) AND complete a Summer EBT application.
- Summer EBT is being implemented is DIFFERENT than how Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) operated during the public health emergency.
 - Not all students enrolled in a CEP approved school are Summer EBT eligible.

Summer EBT Eligibility: CEP Approved Public School

- For Summer 2024, flexibility exists for Illinois schools to use the low-income indicator in SIS if a household and income form was used to determine individual eligibility for SY23-24.
 - **Please make sure that a mailing address is included in SIS for ALL enrolled students marked as low income, to ensure prompt issuance of these benefits to the student directly.**
- For Summer 2024, only those students who are not already determined low income and marked as such in SIS will need to complete a Summer EBT application to be eligible for benefits.
 - Please be prepared to upload eligible student data for any Summer EBT applications approved, including student mailing addresses to WINS. (Schools will be notified once the system is available.)

Summer EBT Eligibility:

Non-CEP Approved Public School

- Students eligible for free or reduced-price meal benefits AND the low-income indicator in SIS is marked, will be eligible for Summer EBT benefits.
- Continue to process School Nutrition Programs household eligibility applications through the end of the school year and ensure that the SIS low-income indicator is marked.
 - **Please make sure that a mailing address is included in SIS for ALL enrolled students marked as low income, to ensure prompt issuance of these benefits to the student directly.**
- After the school year ends, a statewide application for Summer EBT will be available, that will be sent directly to the state for processing.

Summer EBT Eligibility: All Nonpublic NSLP Participating Schools

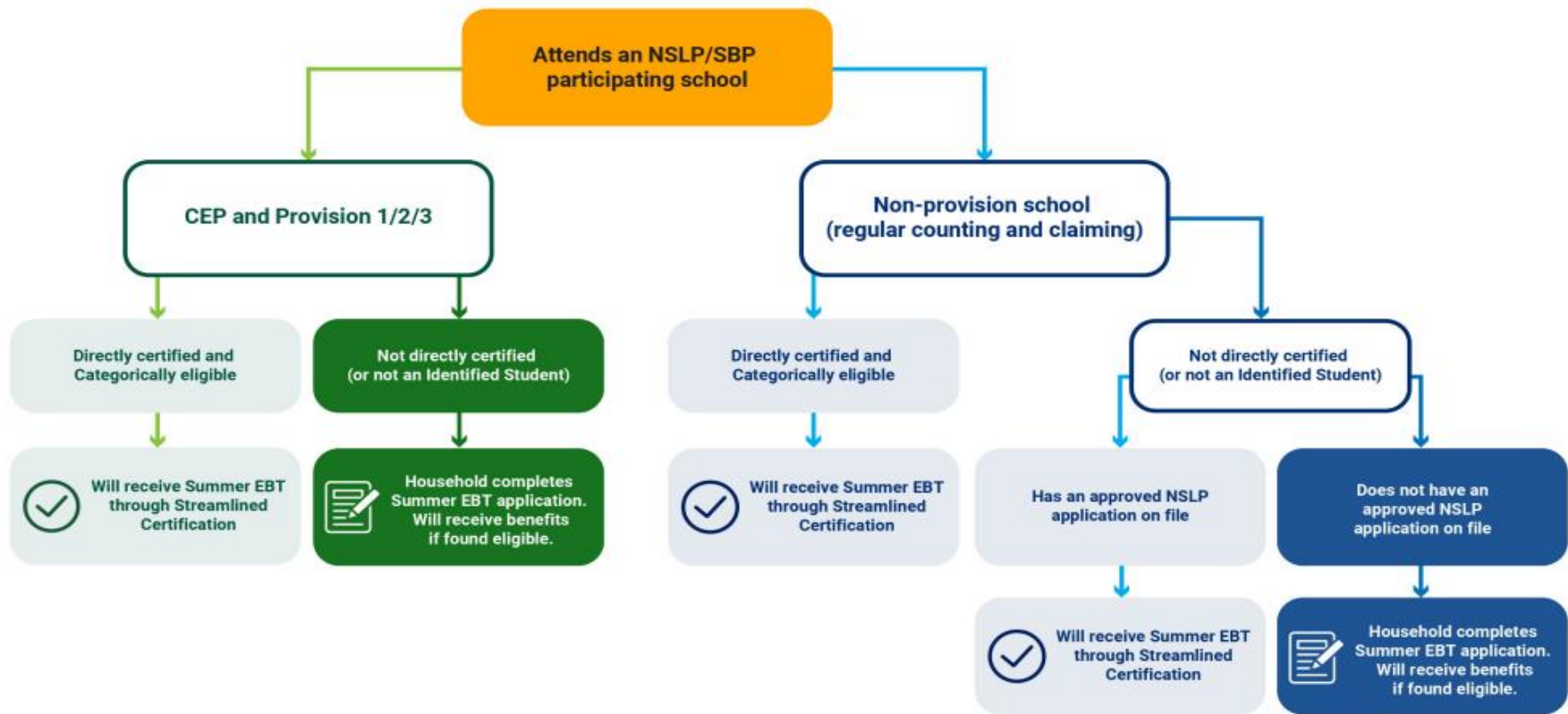
- Continue to process School Nutrition Programs household eligibility/Summer EBT applications through the end of the school year.
 - **Please be prepared to upload eligible student data, including student mailing addresses to WINS. (Schools will be notified once the system is available.)**
- After the school year ends, a statewide application for Summer EBT will be available, that will be sent directly to the state for processing.

ELIGIBILITY FLOW FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE ENROLLED IN NSLP/SBP PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Intended Audience: Summer EBT agencies and LEAs



Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

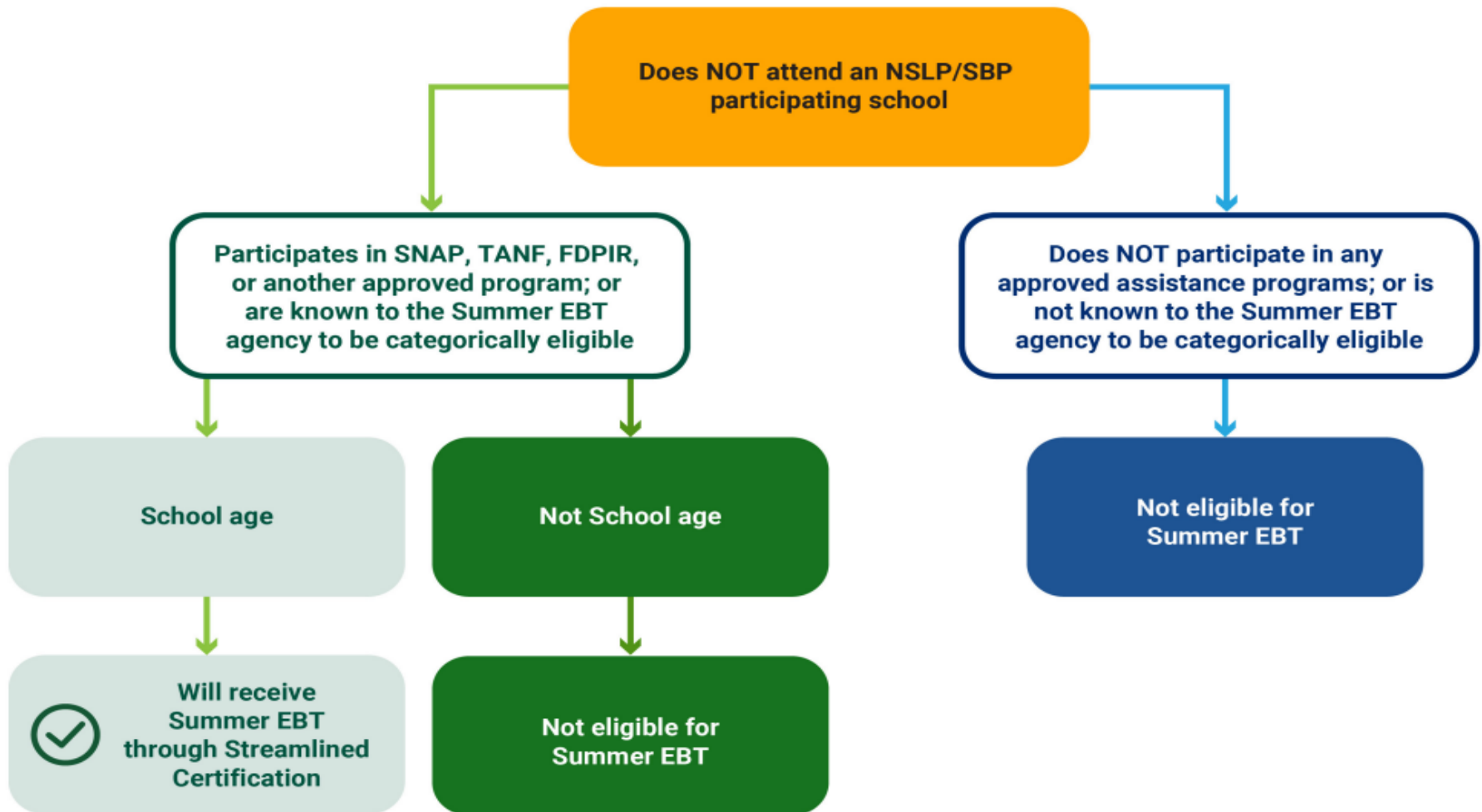


ELIGIBILITY FLOW FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE NOT ENROLLED IN NSLP/SBP PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Intended Audience: Summer EBT agencies and LEAs



Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Summer EBT 2024 - Submit Student Eligibility Data to ISBE

- The general deadline for Summer EBT 2024 data to ISBE is planned for May 15, 2024.
- This includes data submitted in SIS and WINS.
- More detailed guidance will be shared once available.



Summer EBT 2024 - Distribute Outreach Materials to Eligible Students

- In May 2024, prior to the end of the school year, distribute a state developed Summer EBT Fact Sheet to eligible students with complete program guidelines. This can be posted on social media, distributed to eligible students via email, or included in school newsletters.
 - Materials specific to Illinois schools will also be available in the near future.
- In addition, the USDA has developed a Summer EBT Outreach Toolkit (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/sebt/outreach-toolkit>)



SUN Programs: Sub-brands

The SUN Programs support children and families during the summertime in three ways. Each of these programs has its own sub-brand logo.



Overarching Brand Logo



SUN Bucks: Grocery electronic benefit transfer (EBT) program for families with eligible school-aged children, sometimes referred to as Summer EBT (new in 2024)



SUN Meals: Traditional in-person congregate/group meals and snacks provided at sites in communities with high rates of poverty



SUN Meals To-Go: Meal service available in some rural communities for pick-up or home delivery (new since 2023)

Upcoming Illinois School Summer EBT webinars

Additional Summer EBT webinars:

- Register at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/1537396969166154584>
 - April 10

* Pending the USDA approval of the Illinois Summer EBT plan, additional information will be shared with schools.

Any Questions?

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