

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

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

Webinar: April 17, 2024

* Pending the USDA approval of the Illinois Summer EBT plan

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

Launching
this year:
SUN Bucks



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 late 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

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 near the end of May 2024
 - Paper application with possible electronic application available
 - For Summer 2024, verification for cause is required.

CHECKLIST FOR SCHOOLS

NSLP PARTICIPATING PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS

TRADITIONAL MEAL COUNTING & CLAIMING (NON-CEP)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture authorized a new permanent nutrition program called Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer, or Summer EBT. This program is referred to as SUN Bucks. SUN Bucks 2024 will provide a \$120 annual benefit to eligible children. To be eligible for SUN Bucks a child must be identified as direct certified due to participation in SNAP, TANF, income eligible Medicaid (185% of the federal poverty guideline), and those that are foster, homeless, migrant or income eligible by an application. The benefits will be distributed to the household by the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) in late Summer 2024. The Illinois State Board of Education will work in partnership with the IDHS to collect eligible student data. For Summer EBT 2024 benefit issuance, the USDA allows the Alternate Household and Income Form, as a source of the required eligibility data.

Now

Ensure that all free and reduced-price eligible students (regardless of how they are eligible) are marked as 'low income' in the Student Information System (SIS).

By May 1 (annually)

Distribute Summer EBT Program "Notification Message" (sample available) to all eligible students. (Those marked as 'low income' in the Student Information System, or SIS.)

Distribute Summer EBT Program "Application Message" (sample available) to all enrolled non-eligible students. (Those NOT marked as 'low income' in SIS.)

During May

Process any new Electronic Direct Certification and Household Eligibility Applications for students eligible for free and reduced-price meal benefits.

Ensure that all free and reduced-price eligible students (regardless of how they are eligible) are marked as 'low income' in the Student Information System (SIS).

Ensure that all enrolled students marked as 'low income' have a current mailing address entered in SIS.

- If a mailing address is not included in SIS and a Summer EBT benefit card is needed, such benefit cards will be issued to the enrolling school via the school address, with a request to distribute to the eligible household in a timely manner.

Week of May 28

ISBE will pull current SIS data for eligible Summer EBT students. Data will be shared with IDHS for Summer EBT 2024 benefit issuance.

After School is Out for the Summer

Share Summer EBT program information, when requested.

Direct households to the statewide Summer EBT application, if needed.

Help for Households

If you are unable to answer questions from families, you can direct households to the Illinois Department of Human Services for Summer EBT benefit inquiries.

- Customer Help Line: (800) 843-6154
- Website: <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/>

Resources for Schools

- Visit www.isbe.net/sebt to watch webinars, review guidance, and link to related resources, such as HEAs, Household and Income Forms, and the School Nutrition Programs Administrative Handbook.



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.**
 - If a mailing address is not included in SIS and a Summer EBT benefit card is needed, such benefit cards will be issued to the enrolling school via the school address, with a request to distribute to the eligible household in a timely manner.

CHECKLIST FOR SCHOOLS

NSLP PARTICIPATING PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS

COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION (CEP)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture authorized a new permanent nutrition program called Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer, or Summer EBT. This program is referred to as SUN Bucks. SUN Bucks 2024 will provide a \$120 annual benefit to eligible children. To be eligible for SUN Bucks a child must be identified as direct certified due to participation in SNAP, TANF, income eligible Medicaid (185% of the federal poverty guideline), and those that are foster, homeless, migrant or income eligible by an application. The benefits will be distributed to the household by the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) in late Summer 2024. The Illinois State Board of Education will work in partnership with the IDHS to collect eligible student data. For Summer EBT 2024 benefit issuance, the USDA allows the Alternate Household and Income Form, as a source of the required eligibility data.

Now

Ensure that all students eligible at or below 185% of the federal poverty guideline (regardless of how they are eligible) are marked as 'low income' in the Student Information System (SIS).

By May 1 (annually)

Distribute Summer EBT Program "Notification Message" (sample available) to all eligible students. (Those marked as 'low income' in the Student Information System.

Distribute Summer EBT Program "Application Message" (sample available) to all enrolled non-eligible students. (Those NOT marked as 'low income' in SIS.)

During May

Process any new Electronic Direct Certification or Alternate Household and Income forms for students eligible at or below 185% of the federal poverty guideline.

Ensure that all students eligible at or below 185% of the federal poverty guideline (regardless of how they are eligible) are marked as 'low income' in the Student Information System (SIS).

Ensure that all enrolled students marked as 'low income' have a current mailing address entered in SIS.

- If a mailing address is not included in SIS and a Summer EBT benefit card is needed, such benefit cards will be issued to the enrolling school via the school address, with a request to distribute to the eligible household.

Week of May 28

ISBE will pull current SIS data for eligible Summer EBT students. Data will be shared with IDHS for Summer EBT 2024 benefit issuance.

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Share Summer EBT program information, when requested.

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Resources for Schools

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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

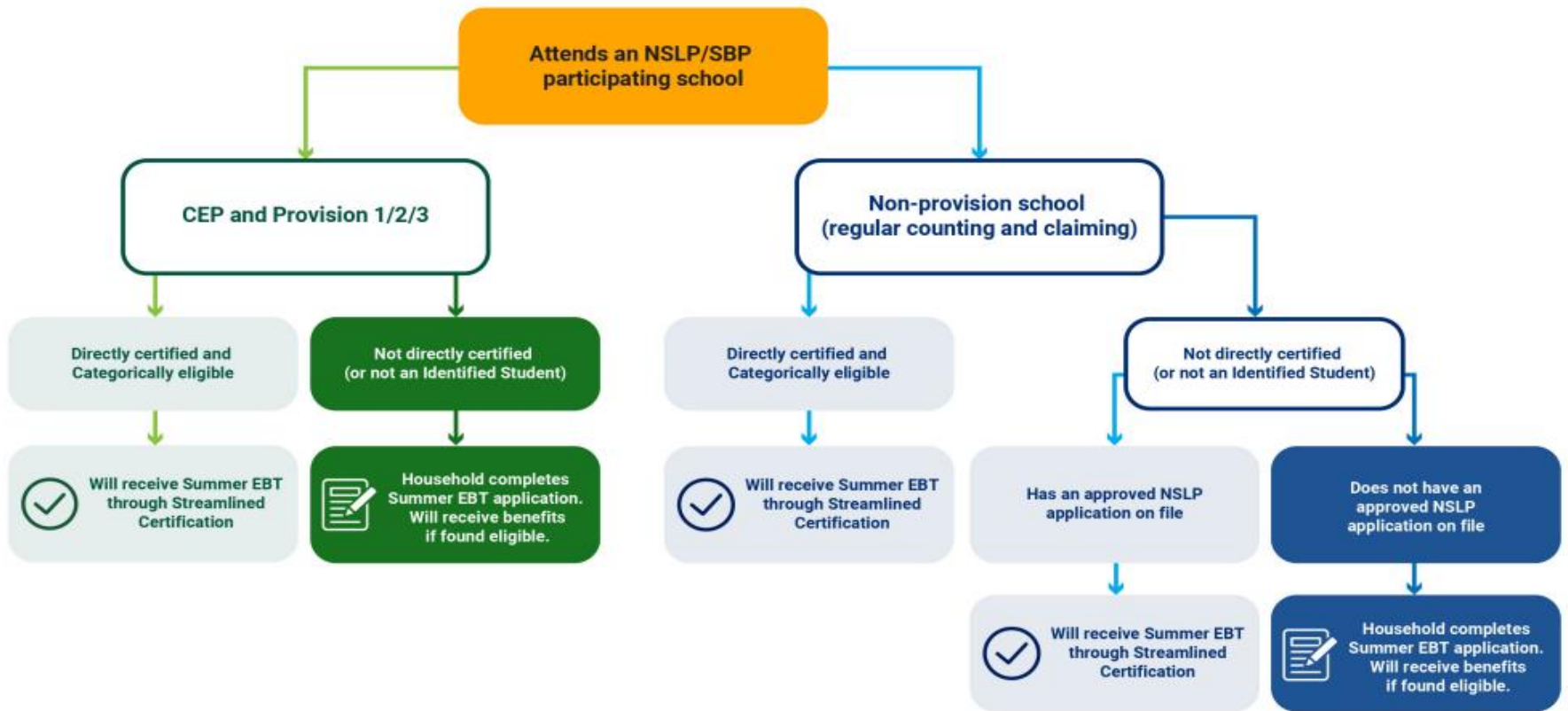
- For Summer 2024, flexibility exists for Illinois schools to use the low-income indicator in SIS if a household and income form was used to determine individual eligibility for SY23-24.
 - **Please make sure that a mailing address is included in SIS for ALL enrolled students marked as low income, to ensure prompt issuance of these benefits to the student directly.**
 - If a mailing address is not included in SIS and a Summer EBT benefit card is needed, such benefit cards will be issued to the enrolling school via the school address, with a request to distribute to the eligible household in a timely manner.

Summer EBT Eligibility: All Nonpublic NSLP Participating Schools

- Continue to process School Nutrition Programs household eligibility/Household and Income Form through the end of the school year.
 - **Please be prepared to upload eligible student data, including student mailing addresses to WINS. (available no later than May 1)**

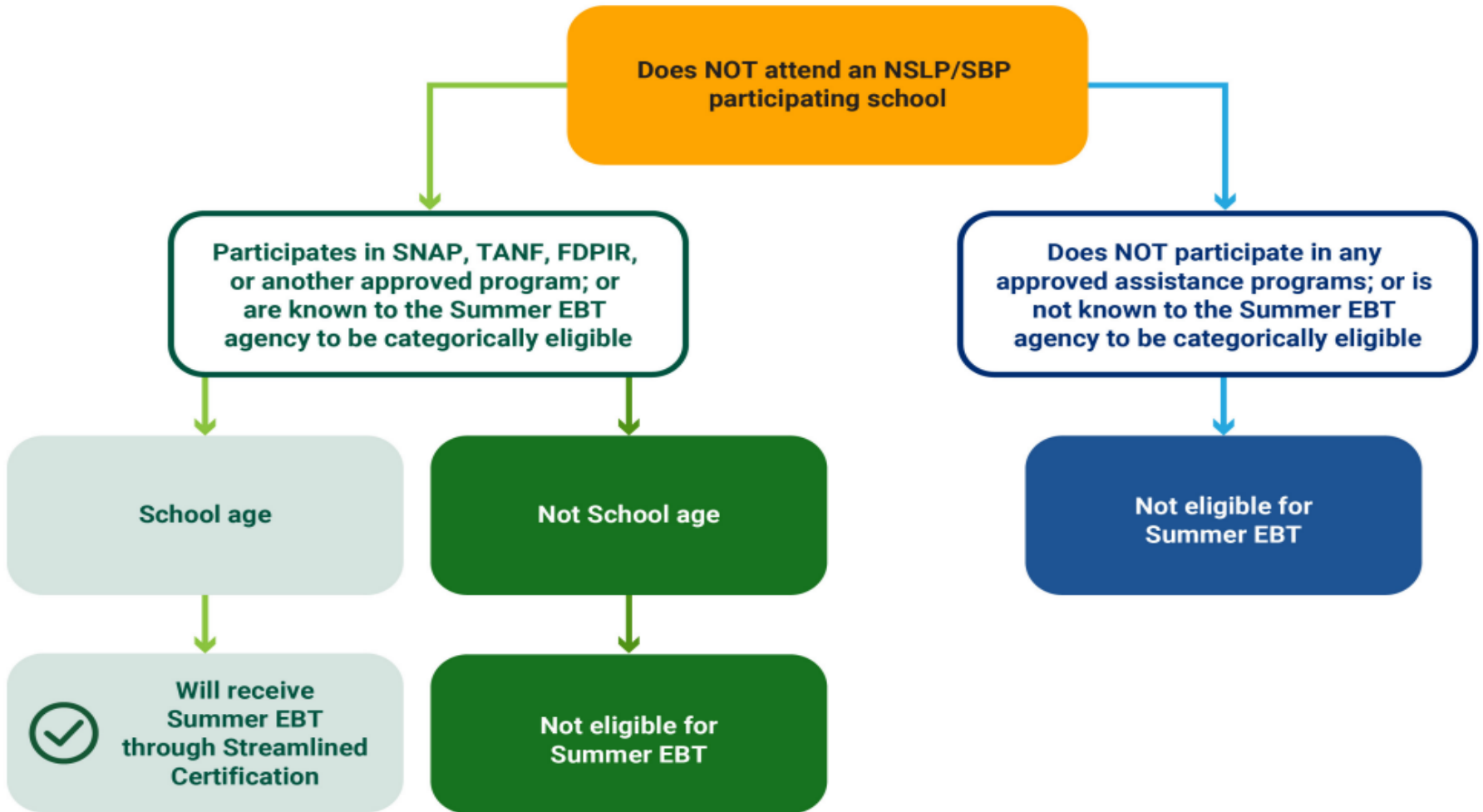
ELIGIBILITY FLOW FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE ENROLLED IN NSLP/SBP PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Intended Audience: Summer EBT agencies and LEAs



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

Intended Audience: Summer EBT agencies and LEAs



Statewide Summer EBT Application

- For Summer 2024, only those students who are not already determined low income and marked as such in SIS (Or uploaded to WINS for Summer EBT eligibility) will need to complete a Summer EBT application to be eligible for benefits.
- ISBE will process all Summer EBT applications.
- Summer EBT application is planned to be available in paper and electronic format, released in late May 2024.
- The last day to apply for Summer EBT 2024 in Illinois is August 31, 2024, the end of the summer operational period.
- Verification for cause is applicable for Summer EBT.

Summer EBT 2024

Distribute Outreach Materials to Students

- By May 1, distribute a state developed message with program information.
 - Summer EBT **Notification** Message (Known Eligible Students)
 - Summer EBT **Application** Message (Enrolled, but not known eligible students)
- Information about Summer EBT is encouraged to 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 soon at www.isbe.net/sebt.





Together,
we can **help more
children thrive** in
the summertime
and beyond



Any Questions?

Nutrition Department
Illinois State Board of Education

Telephone: 800/545-7892 in Illinois only
217/782-2491

Email: sebt@isbe.net

Website: www.isbe.net/sebt