

Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (Summer EBT) and Illinois Schools – Summer 2025

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

Webinar: April 28, 2025

What is Summer EBT?

- The Illinois Plan for Operations and Management of Summer EBT 2025 was approved by the USDA on April 15, 2025.
- Summer EBT is a 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.
- 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 2025

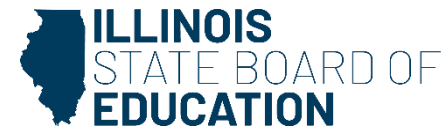
ISBE, in partnership with the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) will implement this program, with support from NSLP participating schools.

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, in accordance with the approved Illinois plan
- Provide customer service to Summer EBT families regarding access and use of their benefits
- Processes Summer EBT household applications for households, when needed



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 2025

In Illinois, for the Summer EBT issuance for 2025, the following data sets will be used:

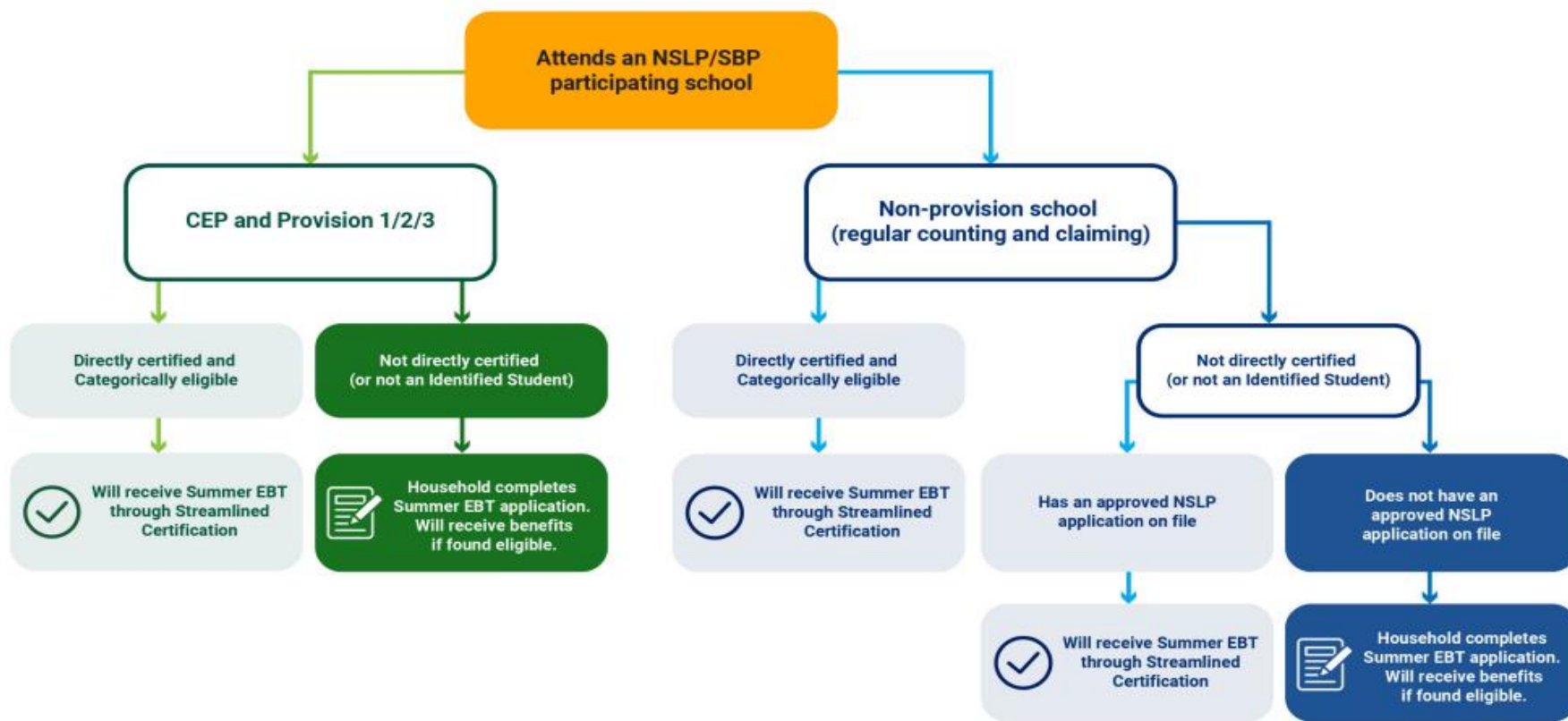
- All children that receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Income Eligible Medicaid (Free and Reduced Price eligible) as well as foster children (Youth in Care) between July 2, 2006 and August 13, 2019.
- Students that are eligible for 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.
 - Non-CEP Approved Public School
 - CEP Approved Public School
 - Non-Public NSLP (CEP and Non-CEP) Participating Schools
- A Summer EBT statewide application may be needed for students that are enrolled **in an NSLP participating school and meet the income requirements**, but not otherwise known to be eligible via ISBE data.
 - IDHS will process Summer EBT 2025 applications.
 - The Illinois Summer EBT statewide application is now available through the IDHS Summer EBT Screener through August 13, 2025.
 - Verification of eligibility is required and will be conducted by IDHS, as required.

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

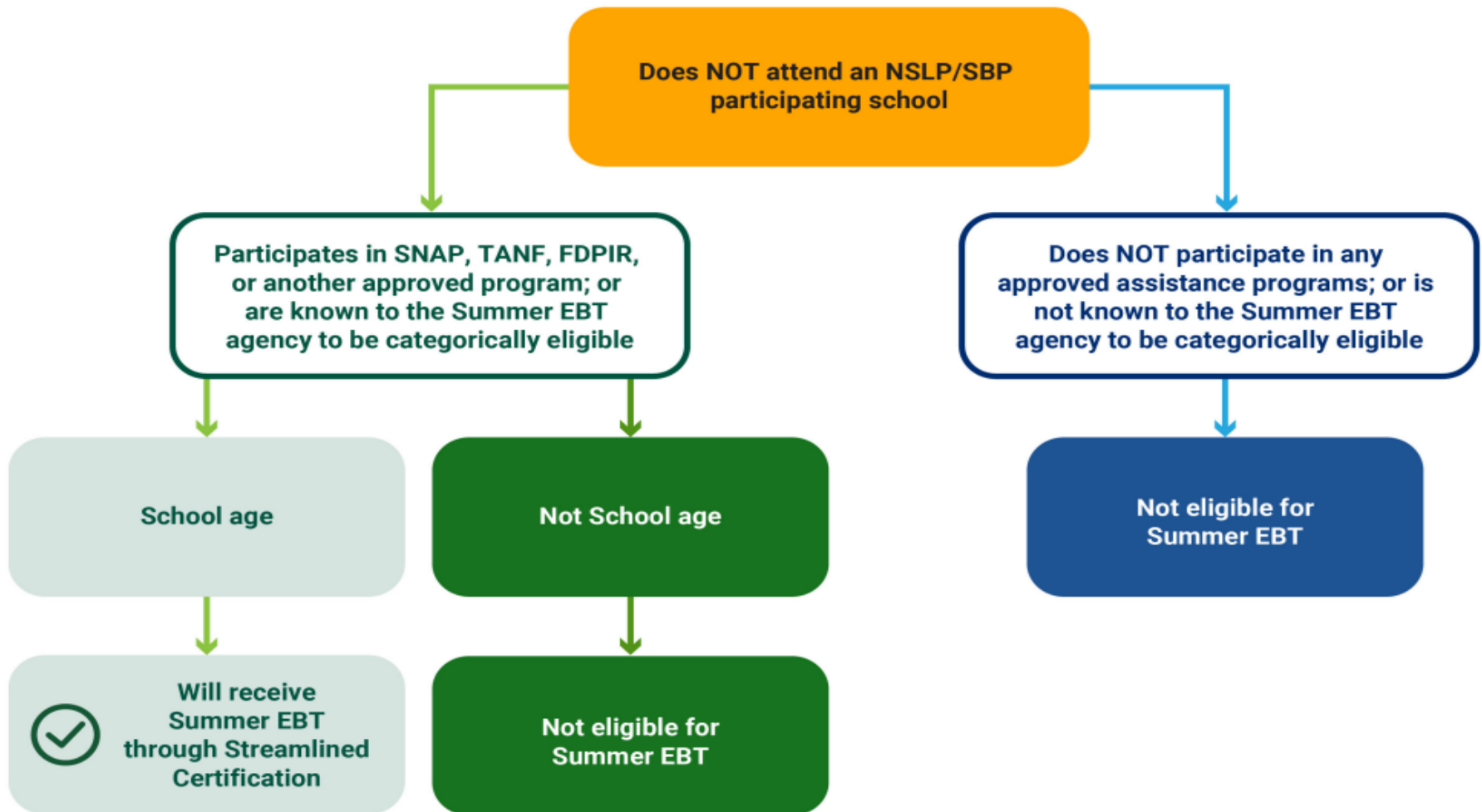


ELIGIBILITY FLOW FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE NOT ENROLLED IN NSLP/SBP PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

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Eligible Public Schools: SIS Student Mailing Address

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 for an eligible Summer EBT student, IDHS will issue an eligibility notice to the student via the enrolling school address.
- Please share such notice, received at the school, to the eligible household in a timely manner.
- This notice will provide the household guidance on how to update the mailing address so that the Summer EBT benefit may be issued. This is competed via IDHS.
 - » The SEBT 2025 benefit issuance will NOT occur unless the household takes action to update the mailing address.

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.

Summer EBT Eligibility: CEP Approved Public School

- Under the program requirements established by the USDA for Summer EBT 2025, 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, subject to verification.
- Summer EBT 2025 is being implemented DIFFERENT than Summer EBT 2024 for CEP Schools.
 - 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.

Summer EBT Eligibility: All Nonpublic NSLP Participating Schools

- **Non-CEP Non-Public Schools:**

- Students eligible for free or reduced-price meal benefits AND uploaded into WINS as SEBT 2025 eligible, will be eligible for Summer EBT benefits.

- **CEP Non-Public Schools:**

- Students that are directly certified /categorically eligible that can be validated by IDHS AND uploaded into WINS as SEBT 2025 eligible, will be eligible for Summer EBT benefits.
- Students that meet the income eligibility guidelines and are enrolled in an eligible school will need to submit the SEBT 2025 application. These students are uploaded so that enrollment information can be validated.
- Continue to process School Nutrition Programs household eligibility applications through the end of the school year and ensure all eligible students are uploaded in WINS.
- **This link will be available in WINS soon. We will share more guidance with eligible non-public schools once available.**

Statewide Summer EBT Application

- For Summer 2025, while most eligible students will be determined eligible for Summer EBT based on known data at IDHS/ISBE, if an eligible student is not known to be eligible, that household may complete a Summer EBT application to be eligible for benefits.
- IDHS will process all Summer EBT applications.
- Summer EBT application is available through the IDHS screener (<https://abe.illinois.gov/access/>).
- The last day to apply for Summer EBT 2025 in Illinois is August 13, 2025, the end of the Illinois summer operational period.
- Verification is required for Summer EBT applications, and IDHS will conduct when applicable.

Summer EBT 2025

Distribute Outreach Materials to Your Community

- Information about Summer EBT is encouraged to be posted on social media, distributed to eligible students via email, or included in school newsletters.
- SUN Programs Communication Toolkit from USDA is available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/summer/toolkit>.



Any Questions?

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