

SY 21-22 and Summer 2022 P-EBT: Notice to NSLP Sponsors (Public and Non-Public Schools)

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), in partnership with the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS), would like to share this information regarding a supplemental food assistance program, known as Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT). **The information shared in this message is specific to SY 21-22 and Summer 2022 P-EBT benefits in Illinois eligible schools.**

P-EBT benefits were first issued in the Spring of 2020 and continue through the most recent school year and summer 2022. PEBT is authorized by Section 4601 of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127) as amended by the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act (P.L. 116-159), the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260), and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (P.L. 117-2). The P-EBT program will remain active as long as the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) exists. When the federal PHE ends, the P-EBT program will also end.

Please note that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has changed the specific eligibility criteria each year. The following highlights the requirements for Summer 2022.

Summer 2022 Plan Highlights

- Eligible school is a school that claimed meals under the National School Lunch Program/Seamless Summer Option/School Breakfast Program in SY 21-22.
- Student **MUST** have been enrolled in an eligible school as of May/June 2022. For a public school student, this must be the serving school in the Student Information System (SIS). This is a change from prior P-EBT issuance due to changes implemented by the USDA.
- Student must have been determined free or reduced price eligible for school meals using the SY 21-22 Household Eligibility Application no later than July 15, 2022, or enrolled in a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) approved school.
- For public schools, the SIS data element of FRL/low income indicator for SY 21-22 will be used to make this determination. Since SIS SY 21-22 is closed for updates, any data changes resulting in additional P-EBT issuances will be made directly with the Illinois Department of Human services (DHS). More details will be shared once available.
- For non-public eligible school students, a file will be uploaded securely in the Web-Based Illinois Nutrition System (WINS) with eligible students.
 - Instructions to complete this task are found at [SY 21-22 P-EBT and Summer 2022: Uploading Data in WINS \(Non-Public NSLP Eligible School\)](#) and in the [recorded webinar](#).
 - The file upload will cover SY 21-22 and Summer 2022 for non-public eligible students. Please upload no later than Dec. 9, 2022.
- Summer 2022 P-EBT issuance will be \$391 per eligible student.

SY 21-22 Plan Highlights

- Eligible school is a school that claimed meals under the National School Lunch Program/Seamless Summer Option/School Breakfast Program in SY 21-22.
- Student **MUST** have been enrolled in an eligible school during SY 21-22 and have a COVID related absence in which the student did not receive the reimbursable school meal at school to consume at school. For a public-school student, this must be the serving school in the Student Information System (SIS). This is a change from prior P-EBT issuance due to changes implemented by the USDA.

- Student must have been determined free or reduced price eligible for school meals using the SY 21-22 Household Eligibility Application no later than July 15, 2022, or enrolled in a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) approved school.
- For public schools, the SIS data element of FRL/low income indicator for SY 21-22 will be used to make this determination.
 - To use SIS data, a simplified assumption was made on the approved plan to use existing attendance data for P-EBT issuance. Since SIS SY 21-22 is closed for updates, any data changes resulting in additional P-EBT issuances will be made directly with the Illinois Department of Human services (DHS). More details will be shared once available.
- Illinois will issue P-EBT benefits automatically to public school enrolled eligible students with
 - a total of five or more attendance days in a month coded as E-Learning, Remote Learning, or excused absences,
 - for eligible students with fewer than five attendance days in a month coded as ELearning, Remote Learning, or excused absences, Illinois will only issue benefits automatically for Remote Learning days,
 - Parents of eligible public-school students who did not receive an automated issuance may make a request to DHS. More information will be released once this is available.
- For non-public eligible school students, a file will be uploaded securely in the Web-Based Illinois Nutrition System (WINS) with eligible students. This system is open now!
 - Instructions to complete this task are found at [SY 21-22 P-EBT and Summer 2022: Uploading Data in WINS \(Non-Public NSLP Eligible School\)](#) and in the [recorded webinar](#).
 - The file upload will cover SY 21-22 and Summer 2022 for non-public eligible students. **Please upload no later than Dec. 9, 2022.**
- **COVID related absences** for purpose of P-EBT eligibility for all Illinois students is defined as:
 - Any absence where the school directs students to stay home for a COVID-related reason. This would include a school-ordered quarantine of a student, a group of students, a classroom, or a school. It would also include any other stay-at-home order mandated by the school, whatever its duration, if it is part of the school's or the state's protocol for managing COVID outbreaks, positive tests, and/or potential exposure.
 - An absence initiated by the parent that is recognized and accepted by school officials as COVID-related. At the discretion of the school or the state, this could include a parent's decision to keep their child home after a positive test or possible exposure to COVID. It could also include, again at the discretion of the school or the state, a parent's decision to keep their child home after exposure at school in cases where the school does not direct the child to stay home.
- Each eligible SY 21-22 school day will issued \$7.10 in P-EBT benefits.

Parent/Student Assistance Regarding Summer P-EBT

All household inquiries regarding P-EBT issuance, use of benefits, etc., MUST be directed to Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS). P-EBT information specific to parents, guardians, and recipients is found at www.DHS.Illinois.gov/PEBT or by contacting DHS at (833) 621-0737.

SY 22-23 P-EBT Update

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released guidance to state agencies for SY 22-23 P-EBT. If it is determined that Illinois can meet the requirements for SY 22-23 P-EBT, a detailed plan will be submitted to

USDA for their review and approval. If this occurs and Illinois is approved for SY 22-23 P-EBT benefit issuances, the P-EBT parameters will be shared with eligible schools.

At this time, all eligible P-EBT schools should continue to follow all ISBE guidance specific to student data entry in the [Student Information System](#) to ensure that accurate data is available for such purposes of P-EBT issuances. Per the USDA guidance, as more schools return to full-time-in-person learning and at school meal service operations, USDA anticipates fewer students will be eligible for P-EBT benefits than in the prior school years.

The P-EBT program will remain active as long as the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) exists. When the federal PHE ends, the P-EBT program will also end.

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