

Pennsylvania - Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) – School Year 2021-2022

What is P-EBT?

Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) is temporary funding to families of school-aged children who miss their free or reduced-price school meals due to being out of school for reasons related to COVID-19. The program was created by Congress and is funded through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) oversees the P-EBT program in Pennsylvania. P-EBT funds can only be used to purchase food.

Who is eligible to receive P-EBT?

A student will receive P-EBT if **ALL** the following are true:

1. The school they are enrolled in participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
2. They are eligible to receive free or reduced-price school meals through the NSLP
3. Their school building had five consecutive school days of being closed or reduced attendance due to COVID-19 at some point during the school year
4. They missed their school meals because they were away from their classroom due to COVID-19

Who is not eligible to receive P-EBT through Pennsylvania?

Children are not eligible to receive P-EBT if **any** of the following is true: they attend school in person; they attend a school that does not participate in the NSLP, such as home-schooled children or cyber schools; or they attend school in another state.

How does a cyber school differ from a virtual learning program implemented during the pandemic?

Cyber schools are not eligible for P-EBT because they do not participate in the NSLP. They are run separately from the school building classrooms and the students are enrolled in the cyber program. Districts often call their programs cyber or virtual academies.

Virtual learning programs implemented during the pandemic refer to programs that schools put in place to extend learning from their school buildings to children who could not be in school during the pandemic. These students are enrolled in regular classrooms at the building and the building participates in the NSLP. For this reason, these virtual learning days are considered COVID-19-related since the child is missing their regular school meals at their building.

How much will students receive?

For the 2021-2022 school year, P-EBT-eligible students will receive a benefit based on the number of days they were away from their school building due to COVID-19 as reported by their school. The federal government does not allow P-EBT benefits to be given to eligible students for days they received in-person instruction or for student absences for reasons other than COVID-19.

Important note: Benefit levels are individual and specific to a student's schedule and when their school building met the threshold. The average number of school days each month from September through May is 20 school days. The maximum daily rate for P-EBT during the 2021-2022 school year is \$7.10.

How will students receive P-EBT funds?

Children whose families already receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits will receive the P-EBT benefits on the household's regular EBT card, if possible. Otherwise, benefits will be loaded on the P-EBT card the child received for last school year, if possible. If a child cannot be matched against a previous P-EBT issuance for the 2020-2021 school year, a new P-EBT card will be mailed to the student at the current address on file at school.

What role do schools play?

Schools must first determine when each of their buildings had five consecutive school days of reduced attendance due to COVID-19 for the first time during the school year. No children at a school building can be considered for P-EBT benefits until the building meets this threshold.

Once a school building meets the "5-day" threshold, they count each student's days away from that building for COVID-19-related reasons for the remainder of the year. The school reports this data to the DHS. DHS will use the school data to calculate P-EBT benefits for the students.

When can P-EBT issuances be expected?

- First Quarter Benefits for September – November 2021: Issued late June 2022
- Second Quarter Benefits for December 2021 – February 2022: Issued mid July 2022
- Third Quarter Benefits for March 2022 – May 2022: Issued early August 2022

Can P-EBT cards be used at school to purchase school meals? No. P-EBT benefits can only be used for the same purchases as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps. The card can only be used at approved food retailers, predominantly grocery stores and convenience stores. SNAP benefits and P-EBT cannot be used to purchase hot prepared foods, even at grocery stores and convenience stores.

Resources for parents/guardians

Parents often contact schools first with P-EBT questions, but schools can only provide limited answers; and the P-EBT School Helpdesk cannot speak with families. Most P-EBT questions must be answered by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) who administers the P-EBT program.

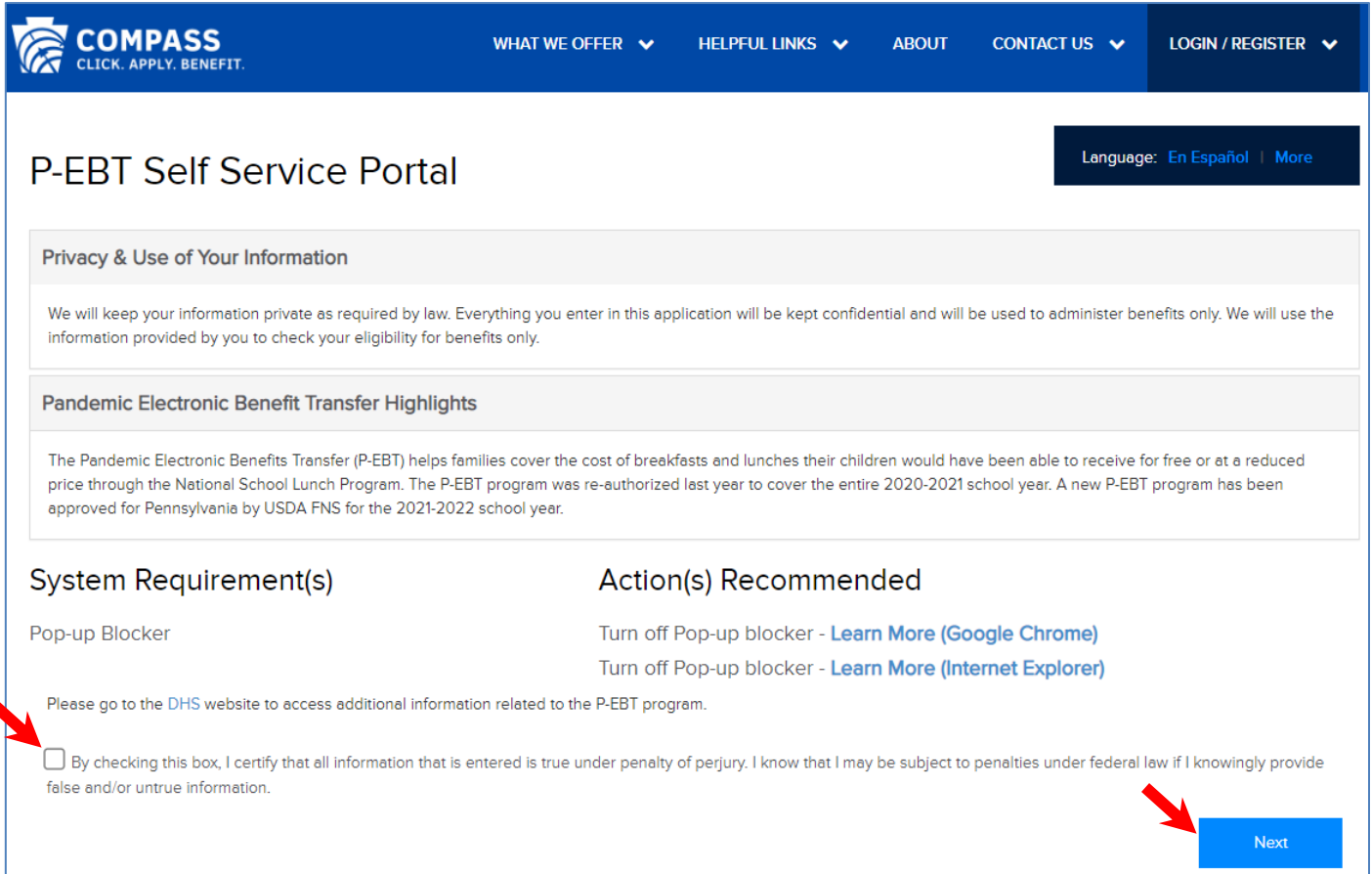
When a parent/guardian contacts a school with a P-EBT question, the school should first verify that the P-EBT information they submitted for the parent's child/children was correct. If the student was paid status in 21-22, they are not eligible for a 21-22 or summer 2022 P-EBT benefit. If the school finds an issue in the P-EBT data they submitted, the school should contact the P-EBT School Helpdesk for direction. Schools should also provide parents the following P-EBT resources:

- DHS P-EBT website: <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/coronavirus/Pages/P-EBT-Guide.aspx>
- DHS P-EBT family support center phone: 877-343-0179
- DHS P-EBT online inquiry form: <https://forms.juvar.com/forms/eb604f74-e01c-463e-82ea-04c416a5c9c5>
- **NEW for 21-22: Parent Portal:** <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/Compass.Web/Public/pebtsearch>

Parents can use the Parent Portal to check their child's eligibility for P-EBT, benefit amount and request P-EBT replacement cards.

Parent Portal Instructions

1. On the first screen, check the acknowledgement box at the bottom of the screen then click "Next"



The screenshot shows the 'P-EBT Self Service Portal' interface. At the top is a blue navigation bar with the 'COMPASS' logo and the tagline 'CLICK. APPLY. BENEFIT.' followed by menu items: 'WHAT WE OFFER', 'HELPFUL LINKS', 'ABOUT', 'CONTACT US', and 'LOGIN / REGISTER'. Below the navigation bar, the page title 'P-EBT Self Service Portal' is displayed on the left, and a language selector 'Language: En Español | More' is on the right. The main content area contains two informational boxes: 'Privacy & Use of Your Information' and 'Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer Highlights'. Below these is a table with two columns: 'System Requirement(s)' and 'Action(s) Recommended'. The table lists 'Pop-up Blocker' as a requirement with links to learn more for Google Chrome and Internet Explorer. Below the table, there is a text prompt: 'Please go to the DHS website to access additional information related to the P-EBT program.' followed by a checkbox and a certification statement: 'By checking this box, I certify that all information that is entered is true under penalty of perjury. I know that I may be subject to penalties under federal law if I knowingly provide false and/or untrue information.' A red arrow points to this checkbox. At the bottom right of the form, there is a blue 'Next' button, also indicated by a red arrow.

System Requirement(s)	Action(s) Recommended
Pop-up Blocker	Turn off Pop-up blocker - Learn More (Google Chrome) Turn off Pop-up blocker - Learn More (Internet Explorer)

Please go to the [DHS](#) website to access additional information related to the P-EBT program.

By checking this box, I certify that all information that is entered is true under penalty of perjury. I know that I may be subject to penalties under federal law if I knowingly provide false and/or untrue information.

Next

2. On the second screen, information must be entered about the school year, school, student and parent. **Important:** the information entered on this screen must exactly match the information the school submitted to DHS for the student. When the screen is complete, click 'Next'.

P-EBT Self Service Portal

School Year *

2021-2022

Please enter the student's information to verify their identity and locate your P-EBT issuance information.

Please locate the student's school

In what county is the student's school? *

02 - Allegheny

School type: *

Public School

If the student goes to public school, please select the school district from the list: *

Pittsburgh

To which school building does the student go? *

Not Listed\No Mencionado

Student Information

Student First Name *

Ria

Student Last Name *

Mci

Student Middle Name

Student Date of Birth *

05/01/2005

Guardian Information

Guardian First Name *

Ali

Guardian Last Name *

Mc

Guardian Email

Guardian Contact Phone Number

County of Residence *

02 - Allegheny

P-EBT or EBT Card Number:

If you have your P-EBT or EBT card number, please enter it below:

P-EBT or EBT Card Number:



Click image for larger display

I'm not a robot



reCAPTCHA
Privacy - Terms

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Next

- If a match to the student information entered is found in the DHS system and the student is eligible for a P-EBT benefit it will display a screen which details how the benefit was calculated. The parent can request a replacement card from this screen.

My P-EBT Card

Request a Replacement P-EBT Card

Welcome to the P-EBT Benefit Dashboard. On this Dashboard, you can review the student's information as recorded and submitted by their school, as well as any benefit information that is currently available.

Student Information

First Name Iss	Middle Name Jonathan	Last Name Cle
Date of Birth 11/22/2014	School Name Area Primary Center	

P-EBT Benefit Information

Amount	Expected Issuance Date Range	Months Covered in Issuance	How We Calculated Your Benefit
\$710	05/09/2022-05/20/2022	Sep, Oct, Nov	Number of days out because of COVID-19 * Daily Rate: 1 * \$710 = \$710
\$35.50	06/13/2022-06/24/2022	Dec, Jan, Feb	Number of days out because of COVID-19 * Daily Rate: 5 * \$710 = \$35.50
N/A	07/18/2022-07/29/2022	Mar, Apr, May	N/A
\$391.00	08/15/2022-08/26/2022	Summer	Maximum amount as determined by the United States Department of Agriculture

Please go to the [DHS](#) website to access additional information related to the P-EBT program.

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Other P-EBT resources for parents:

- Food Research & Action Center - <https://frac.org/pebt>
- Just Harvest - <https://justharvest.org/faq-about-pandemic-ebt-pebt-2021-2022-school-year-pennsylvania/>