

Kentucky Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT)?

Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) provides assistance to households with children eligible for free or reduced-price school meals while schools are closed due to COVID-19. P-EBT provides a benefits card families can use to replace school meals while schools are closed. For more information please visit the [CHFS P-EBT webpage](#).

Who is eligible for P-EBT?

All public and private school students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals are eligible for P-EBT. Students who attend schools that provide free meals for all students, referred to as Community Eligibility Provision schools ('CEP schools') are all eligible.

How and when will I get my benefits?

- P-EBT benefits will be added to existing recipients' EBT cards beginning May 22nd.
- Households currently receiving public assistance (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps, TANF, Foster/Kinship Care and/or Medicaid) with income less than the federal income limit will be enrolled automatically. Cards will be automatically mailed to those that do not currently have an EBT card.

Other eligible households must complete a simple application. Once approved for P-EBT, these households will receive a card within 10 business days with activation and card use instructions. Approved households may call toll free (888) 979-9949 for assistance activating their cards and for more information.

How do I apply?

Beginning June 1st, a simple opt-in application will be available on [Kentucky's Benefind website](#).

Is the process different for private schools?

Yes. Private school food service directors are directly providing the list of their eligible students to KDE. There is no action needed by private school families, their benefits will be automatically processed and mailed.

Can schools continue to provide meals through traditional summer feeding programs?

Yes, summer feeding programs should continue to operate, and families should continue to receive these meals for their children. Children may participate in more than one nutrition assistance program as well as the Baylor University Meals to You project for those counties participating in that project.

Can P-EBT benefits be issued retroactively?

Yes. Benefits will date back to school closure on March 13. All eligible students will receive the full benefit amount unless they became eligible after March. Households at non-CEP schools that become eligible due to losing their employment from COVID-19 are encouraged to apply for free lunch status to become eligible for P-EBT.

Why is the benefit beginning after March 13 and ending on May 30?

Average statewide closure dates were used to set the benefits period.

How much is the P-EBT benefit?

P-EBT benefits are based on the current National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program reimbursement rates. The maximum rates provided in Kentucky will be used including the severe need breakfast and lunch rates. Weekends are not included.

Rates per student:

Daily Rate - \$5.70

March Total - \$68.40

April Total - \$125.40

May Total - \$119.70

P-EBT Total - \$313.50

Students will receive the full benefit amount unless they only became eligible after March. In those instances, the student will receive the full month amount beginning in the month they became eligible.

Are students who become eligible for free or reduced lunch after March 13 eligible to receive P-EBT?

Yes. Students who become eligible prior to the end of the school year are eligible to receive P-EBT and will receive the full month of benefits beginning with the month in which they became eligible. Examples:

- Student enrolls in a school that provides free meals for all students after March 13 and before the end of school.
- Student completes an updated National School Lunch Application for free/reduced lunch at a school that provides free and reduced-price meals to students based on eligibility after March 13 and prior to the

end of the school year and is determined to be eligible for the program.

Will Head Start students receive P-EBT benefits?

Head Start students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch at schools offering the NSLP are eligible to receive P-EBT.

Will preschool students participating in Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) at schools receive P-EBT benefits?

No, students must have had access to the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) in order to be eligible to receive the benefit.

I have more than one child eligible for free or reduced lunch. Will I receive one card or individual cards for each child?

In most cases a household will be issued only one card with the total benefits for all children.

Is there a deadline to apply?

The deadline to apply is June 30.

Can student benefits be split between households?

No, benefits can be issued only per student in total and only to one household. Two students in split households may allow for one student to apply at each household address separately. All decisions for split households must be made before applying. If multiple households apply for the same student, the first approved application will receive the funds and all additional applications will be denied.

What can I buy with P-EBT benefits?

Any food for the household, such as:

- Fruits and vegetables
- Meat, poultry, fish
- Dairy products
- Breads and cereals
- Snack foods and non-alcoholic beverages
- Seeds and plants which produce food for the household to eat

Households may not use P-EBT benefits to buy:

- Beer, wine, liquor, cigarettes, tobacco
- Vitamins, medicines, supplements
Items with a supplement facts label are considered supplements and not eligible for P-EBT purchase.
- Live animals (except shellfish, fish removed from water and animals slaughtered prior to pick-up from the store).

- Prepared foods fit for immediate consumption
- Hot foods
- Nonfood items such as:
 - Pet foods
 - Cleaning supplies, paper products and other household supplies.
 - Hygiene items, cosmetics

Do I have to purchase items only in Kentucky?

No, you may use your P-EBT card anywhere EBT is accepted.

Can I purchase items online?

Yes, you may use your P-EBT card to make online purchases at Amazon.com and/or Walmart.com. Please refer to the retailer websites for more information.

How long do I have to spend my P-EBT benefits?

Your P-EBT benefits will remain active on your card for one year.

I did not get a P-EBT card and believe I should have. What do I do?

If you applied online and were denied you will be given a reason. For more information email [P-EBT Information Hub](#). If you currently are enrolled in SNAP, TANF, Kinship or Medicaid and believe you should have received P-EBT benefits, email the [P-EBT Information Hub](#).

If I receive P-EBT benefits will it affect my eligibility for other public assistance programs?

No. P-EBT benefits are an additional service and will not affect your eligibility for other public assistance programs. We encourage families to continue using school and community meal sites for free, nutritious meals for children. Families can go online to [Meals for Kids interactive map](#) for local sites where kids can get free meals.

Does this cost anything? Do I have to pay these benefits back? Do I have to claim P-EBT benefits on my taxes?

There is no cost to the recipient. Families who receive P-EBT benefits will not have to pay back the benefits. Benefits are not taxable.

Do all public schools participate in the National School Lunch Program?

Two public school districts do NOT participate in NSLP, all other schools do participate. Students that are determined to be free at Beechwood Independent and Fort Thomas Independent school districts are NOT eligible to receive P-EBT.

How do I know if my student's school is a CEP school?

Many school districts have all CEP schools. If your student attends a school in one of the districts listed below then they do attend a CEP school and are eligible for P-EBT. If you do not see your school listed or have questions, please check with your local school district.

School Districts with ALL CEP Schools *			
Adair County Board of Education	Dawson Springs Board of Education	Knox County Board of Education	Owensboro Independent School District
Allen County Board of Education	Dayton Independent School District	Larue County Board of Education	Owsley County Board of Education
Ashland Independent Board of Education	East Bernstadt Independent School District	Laurel County Board of Education	Paducah Independent School District
Augusta Independent School District	Edmonson County Board of Education	Lawrence County Board of Education	Paris Independent School District
Ballard County Board of Education	Elliott County Board of Education	Lee County Board of Education	Pendleton County Board of Education
Barbourville Independent School District	Eminence Board of Education	Leslie County Board of Education	Perry County Board of Education
Barren County Board of Education	Erlanger-Elsmere Board of Education	Letcher County Board of Education	Pike County Board of Education
Bath County Board of Education	Estill County Board of Education	Lewis County Board of Education	Pineville Independent School District
Bell County Board of Education	Fairview Independent School District	Lincoln County Board of Education	Powell County Board of Education
Bellevue Independent School District	Fleming County Board of Education	Livingston County Board of Education	Pulaski County Board of Education
Berea Board of Education	Floyd County Board of Education	Ludlow Independent School District	Red Bird Missions
Bourbon County Board of Education	Frankfort Independent School District	Lyon County Board of Education	Robertson County Board of Education
Bowling Green Independent School District	Fulton County Board of Education	Madison County Board of Education	Rockcastle County Board of Education
Boyd County Board of Education	Fulton Independent	Magoffin County Board of Education	Rowan County Board of Education
Bracken County Board of Education	Gallatin County Board of Education	Marion County Board of Education	Russell County Board of Education

Breathitt County Board of Education	Garrard County Board of Education	Marshall County Board of Education	Russellville Independent School District
Breckinridge County Board of Education	Glasgow Independent School District	Martin County Board of Education	Science Hill Independent School District
Butler County Board of Education	Grant County Board of Education	Mason County Board of Education	Simpson County Board of Education
Caldwell County Board of Education	Graves County Board of Education	Mayfield Independent School District	Somerset Independent School District
Calloway County Board of Education	Grayson County Board of Education	McCracken County Board of Education	Southgate Independent School District
Campbellsville Independent School District	Green County Board of Education	McCreary County Board of Education	Taylor County Board of Education
Carlisle County Board of Education	Greenup County Board of Education	Meade County Board of Education	Todd County Board of Education
Carroll County Board of Education	Harlan County Board of Education	Menifee County Board of Education	Trigg County Board of Education
Carter County Board of Education	Harlan Independent School District	Mercer County Board of Education	Union County Board of Education
Casey County Board of Education	Harrison County Board of Education	Metcalfe County Board of Education	Washington County Board of Education
Caverna Independent Schools	Hart County Board of Education	Middlesboro Independent School District	Wayne County Board of Education
Christian County Board of Education	Hazard Independent School District	Monroe County Board of Education	Webster County Board of Education
Clark County Board of Education	Henderson County Board of Education	Montgomery County Board of Education	West Point Independent School District
Clay County Board of Education	Henry County Board of Education	Morgan County Board of Education	Whitley County Board of Education
Clinton County Board of Education	Hickman County Board of Education	Muhlenberg County Board of Education	Williamsburg Independent School District
Cloverport Independent School District	Hopkins County Board of Education	Nativity Academy At St. Boniface	Williamstown Board of Education
Corbin Independent School District	Jackson County Board of Education	Newport Independent School District	Wolfe County Board of Education
Covington Independent School District	Jackson Independent School District	Nicholas County Board of Education	
Crittenden County Board of Education	Jenkins Independent School District	Office of Special Education and Early Learning	
Cumberland County Board of Education	Johnson County Board of Education	Ohio County Board of Education	

Danville Independent School District	Knott County Board of Education	Owen County Board of Education	
* Other School Districts also have individual CEP schools where all kids can receive free lunch, but every school in those Districts are not CEP.			

Who do I contact if I have a question not answered in this FAQs?
 Email the [P-EBT Information Hub](#), please do not call your local DCBS office or school as they will not be able to assist you.