



COVID-19 Pandemic-EBT



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are 'P-EBT' or Pandemic EBT benefits?

Due to coronavirus (COVID-19), students who were receiving free or reduced-price meals at school prior to the COVID-19 pandemic will get extra food benefits. These food benefits are called Pandemic-EBT or P-EBT benefits. P-EBT benefits help families in California buy food when school is closed. Students who are eligible will receive \$365 each.

Who is eligible for P-EBT benefits?

Students are eligible for P-EBT benefits if:

- Their school is closed due to coronavirus (COVID 19); and
- They were receiving for free or reduced-price school meals prior to the pandemic.

How do I get P-EBT benefits?

1. All families with students who receive CalFresh, Medi-Cal or Foster Care benefits do not need to apply online. They should get their P-EBT card in the mail between May 12-25, 2020. If they do not, please call (877) 328-9677.
2. Families with students who received free or reduced-price meals and who do NOT get CalFresh, Medi-Cal or Foster Care benefits must apply online before June 30, 2020.

Apply online at ca.p-ebt.org before June 30, 2020.

If I already got a P-EBT card in the mail do I need to apply online?

No. If you already got a P-EBT card in the mail do not apply online. Follow the instructions that came with your P-EBT card and create your private PIN number. Then your card will be ready to use.

Is my family still eligible to participate in other food assistance, such as school meal COVID-19 emergency programs and CalFresh, if we receive P-EBT?

Yes. P-EBT benefits are additional benefits that do not replace any food assistance programs being offered.

How much in P-EBT benefits will I get?

The total amount you will get depends on how many eligible students are living in your home. You can get up to \$365 for each student who is eligible for P-EBT benefits. You must apply before June 30th, 2020 to get the full benefits.

Does this count against me as a Public Charge?

No, it does not. Using P-EBT benefits does not impact you or your child's immigration status. The public charge rule does not apply to P-EBT benefits. These benefits are meant to replace school meals and are for all families that receive free or reduced-price school meals.

Public charge does not apply to all immigrants. If you have questions please go to sdhunger.org/safe.



P-EBT Frequently Asked Questions (cont'd)

What can I buy with P-EBT benefits?

Your P-EBT benefits can buy food in most grocery stores, farmers' markets, and online at Walmart.com and Amazon.com. Delivery charges may apply for online purchases. P-EBT cannot be used to purchase non-food items.

Use your P-EBT card like a debit card:

- Swipe the card
- Select "EBT"
- Enter your private PIN number

How do I activate my P-EBT Card?

1. Sign the back of your card.
2. Select a Personal Identification Number (PIN) by calling (877) 328-9677.
3. Start using your card at grocery stores, farmer's markets, and online at Walmart.com and Amazon.com.

When is the deadline to apply for P-EBT benefits?

You must apply by June 30, 2020 to get P-EBT benefits. P-EBT benefits are only available while schools are closed due to coronavirus (COVID 19). If you didn't get a P-EBT card in the mail and do not apply by June 30, 2020 you will not be able to get P-EBT benefits. Apply online at ca.p-ebt.org.

What if I applied online and haven't received my P-EBT card?

If you haven't received your P-EBT card after 11 days from when you submitted your application, please call California's EBT customer service center at (877) 328-9677. You can reach them 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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

You can use your P-EBT benefits for one year, beginning on the date you receive your P-EBT card.

