



## Food Assistance for Families of School Children

Louisiana received federal approval to issue Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) benefits for the 2022-23 school year. Eligible students are those who normally receive free or reduced-price school meals but haven't received those meals because of school-approved virtual learning schedules or approved quarantine caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Eligible students in APPROVED QUARANTINE DUE TO COVID-19 for:
  - 1-5 school days in a month: **\$24.50 per month**
  - 6-15 school days in a month: **\$81.80 per month**
  - 16 school days or more in a month: **\$147.24**

Benefits will be retroactive (beginning Aug. 1, 2022) to cover the full 2022-23 school year through May 11, 2023, when the federal Public Health Emergency ends.

May benefits will not exceed \$81.80, due to the federal Public Health Emergency ending mid-month.

### Who's eligible?

Your student is eligible for P-EBT if:

- He or she **has an approved application** for free- or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program. This includes any student in a school that provides free meals to all students (under a special rule called "Community Eligibility Provision"), **AND**
- The child does not receive free or reduced-price meals at the school because the school is closed or has been operating with reduced attendance or hours for at least 5 consecutive days in the current school year. Once the minimum 5 consecutive day threshold is met, children are eligible to receive P-EBT benefits for closures or reductions in hours due to COVID-19.

### Homeschool/Virtual

In general, a child attending a BESE-Approved Home Study Program or an approved virtual school that does not participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) is eligible for P-EBT benefits for the 2022-23 school year if the child meets ALL three of these requirements:

- The child previously attended an NSLP-participating school at some point, but withdrew due to COVID concerns after the start of the COVID health emergency; OR the child enrolled in kindergarten as a virtual or homeschool student in school year 2020-21 or later;
- The child is not attending an NSLP-participating school in SY 2022-23 due to concerns about COVID; AND

- The child would have received free or reduced-price meals at the NSLP-participating school if not for their virtual or homeschooled status.

### When will benefits be issued?

Any eligible P-EBT benefits will be issued in installments beginning in May, depending on the submission of eligibility information by schools, and then on a monthly basis afterward throughout the summer. Benefits will be issued to the same card that was received for the 2022-23 school year. If you did not receive a card, it may take several weeks for you to receive your child's card. Please be patient and do not request a new card, as that would only add to the delay of benefits being received.

Benefits will be issued as schools submit information and it is processed by DCFS. Therefore, families with more than one child may receive their children's benefits at different times or may receive different benefit amounts, according to the information submitted by the schools.

- **PLEASE KEEP YOUR P-EBT CARD:** All P-EBT benefits for each eligible child for the 2022-23 school year, and any potential future benefits, will be issued on the same card per child. **If the card is lost, stolen or damaged, a new one can be requested through the P-EBT Parent Portal, by calling the EBT customer service line at 1-888-997-1117 or through the LifelnCheck EBT mobile app.**

For more information about P-EBT eligibility and how to use P-EBT benefits, visit [www.pebt-la.org](http://www.pebt-la.org).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
VISIT [WWW.PEBT-LA.ORG](http://WWW.PEBT-LA.ORG).**



Families in need of additional food assistance are encouraged to dial 211 to find out what resources are available in their community.

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Louisiana Statewide Network



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- 1. Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;*
- 2. Fax: (202) 690-7442; or*
- 3. Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)*

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