



## Food Assistance for Families of Homeschooled/Virtual Students

Louisiana received federal approval to issue Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) benefits for the 2022-23 school year, and this year certain homeschool and virtual school students may be eligible!

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.

### Who's eligible?

A student who has applied and been approved by the Louisiana Department of Education to attend a BESE-Approved Home Study Program, or who is attending an approved virtual school that does not participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), is eligible for School Year 2022-23 P-EBT if the student meets all three of these requirements:

- The child previously attended an NSLP-participating school but withdrew after the start of the COVID health emergency due to concerns about COVID, or the child enrolled in kindergarten as a virtual or homeschooled student in 2020-21 or later, AND
- The child is not attending an NSLP-participating school due to concerns about COVID, AND
- The child would have received free or reduced-price meals at their NSLP school if not for their virtual or homeschooled status.

## Application Required!

Parents/guardians of eligible homeschooled and virtual school students must complete an application by Thursday, May 11, 2023. Applications not completed by that date will not be processed.

- Virtual school students will apply with their BESE-approved virtual school. Homeschooled students will apply with their local public school.
- Homeschooled and virtual school students must provide proof of income eligibility for free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the name of the child's previous NSLP-participating school.
- Homeschooled students also must provide a copy of their BESE-Approved Home Study approval letter.

### How much P-EBT will we receive?

- Eligible homeschooled and fully virtual students will receive \$147.24 for each month they were determined eligible, through April 2023.
- May benefits will drop to \$81.80, due to the federal Public Health Emergency ending on May 11, 2023.

### When & how will benefits be issued?

P-EBT benefits will begin issuing in May 2023, as schools submit information for eligible students to DCFS.

- Benefits will be issued on a Louisiana Purchase EBT card in the student's name and will be mailed to the student's address. If your child previously received P-EBT, this year's benefits will be issued on the same card.
  - If you receive SNAP: P-EBT benefits will be issued on a separate EBT card in each eligible child's name, not on your regular SNAP EBT card.
- Cards may take several weeks to arrive after being issued. Please be patient.
- The card will arrive in a plain white envelope. Please inspect mail carefully before tossing out "junk mail."
- You will need your child's student ID or activation number to enter in place of their Social Security Number when activating the P-EBT card. For homeschooled students, this student ID number can be obtained by calling 1-888-524-3578. Once you have the student ID or activation number, follow the activation instructions that come with the card.

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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To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (AD-3027) found online at: [How to File a Complaint](#), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

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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