

Pandemic EBT

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Q: What is Pandemic EBT?

A: The Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) program is extra money for families to buy food. P-EBT is for children, in grades kindergarten through 12th grade, who were eligible for free and reduced price meals when they were attending in-person school. P-EBT is a payment to replace meals children lost while their school was either totally closed, engaging in 100% remote learning, or engaged in some hybrid in-person/remote models.

Ohio has approved P-EBT benefits three times since the pandemic started:

- Round 1 was paid to families in June 2020 to help pay for meals that students missed during the 2019-2020 school year, when schools closed in March because of the pandemic.
- Round 2 was paid to families in September/October 2020 for students who missed school meals in August and September of the current school year.
- Round 3 will be paid to students who missed school meals or are missing school meals because of remote learning, school closures due to COVID-19, and for students who have to quarantine because of COVID-19. Round 3 will be a monthly payment beginning in February 2021. Families should have also received an additional payment in February 2021, to cover meals missed between October and January, 2021.

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Who can get Pandemic EBT?

	Round 1 (June 2020)	Round 2 (September 2020)	Round 3 (October 2020 - June 2021)
Who is eligible?	All K-12 students enrolled in the free and reduced priced meal program by April 30, 2020.	All K-12 students enrolled in the free and reduced priced meal program who have been in remote learning for at least five consecutive days since the start of the 2020-2021 School Year.	All K-12 students enrolled in the free and reduced priced meal program who have been in remote learning, had their schools closed due to COVID-19 or have reduced in-person instruction (e.g., hybrid school models) for at least five consecutive days due to COVID-19.

	Round 1 (June 2020)	Round 2 (September 2020)	Round 3 (October 2020 - June 2021)
How much will I get in P-EBT?	\$302.10 for children enrolled in free and reduced priced meals by March 2020; \$239.40 for students enrolled in April.	\$29.30 (\$5.86 a day) for each 5-day period a student is in remote learning or a school building is closed (as determined by the school district).	Around \$6.82 a day for each day a student has a reduced schedule, is unable to attend school due to quarantine, or whose school is closed due to COVID-19.
How will I get P-EBT?	Families on SNAP got their P-EBT benefits loaded on their SNAP card. A separate P-EBT card was sent for each child not on SNAP.	Families on SNAP will get their P-EBT benefits loaded on their SNAP card. A separate P-EBT card will be sent to each child not on SNAP.	Families on SNAP will get their P-EBT benefits loaded on their SNAP card. A new separate P-EBT card will be sent to each child not on SNAP.



Q: How do I apply for P-EBT?

A: You cannot apply for Pandemic EBT benefits. School districts provide information to ODJFS about children who are getting free and reduced priced meals and are eligible for Pandemic EBT.



Q: How do I know if I will get Pandemic EBT in Round 3?

A: During the 2020-2021 School Year, some children are still losing meals because they are going to school through remote learning, and not attending school in-person. If a child has had reduced attendance at school or missed school meals for five consecutive days because (1) schools are closed due to COVID-19, (2) a child's attendance in school in person is reduced due to remote learning or their school moving to a hybrid (mixed remote and in-person model), (3) the child has had to quarantine due to COVID-19.

Children should get P-EBT for Round 3 if they:

- Are students in Kindergarten – 12th grade,
- Are enrolled in the free and reduced priced meal program in their school, and
- Have missed school meals for at least five days because of school closures or reduced in-person school time due to COVID.



Q: If I got P-EBT in previous rounds, will I get Round 3 P-EBT?

A: Children can qualify for P-EBT benefits in each round. They will get the P-EBT payments if they meet the requirements.



Q: My child is in a hybrid program where she attends school in person for 3 days a week, and does remote learning for 2 days a week. Is she eligible for P-EBT Round 3?

A: Yes. Because a hybrid school program is reduced instruction, your child would be eligible for P-EBT in Round 3.



Q: Will I get P-EBT Round 3 if my child had to stay home from school to quarantine?

A: Yes. You should get P-EBT if your child has to quarantine due to COVID-19.



Q: Can my preschool-aged child get P-EBT?

A: Probably. Ohio has been approved to offer P-EBT to preschool-aged (Pre-K) children but is still working on those benefits.



Q: I am on SNAP. How will I get the P-EBT payment?

A: If your child is part of a SNAP household, their P-EBT payment should be loaded to the family's Ohio Direction EBT card. However, some children, who do get SNAP, will get their P-EBT on a separate card. So, you may get the P-EBT payment for some of your children on your SNAP/Ohio Direction card, and you may get a special P-EBT card for other children.



Q: I am not on SNAP. How will I get the P-EBT payment?

A: Children who are not on SNAP, or those that were not matched up with a SNAP household, will get a new P-EBT card in the mail. Each eligible child will get their own card. Each card will come with instructions on how to activate it. PLEASE KEEP THIS CARD. Your benefits will load on this card each month through the end of the school year.



Q: What do I do if I do not get the P-EBT cards for my children?

A: If you do not get a card for each child you think should be getting P-EBT , you should call the ODJFS Pandemic EBT hotline at 1-866-244-0071.



Q: How can I use my Pandemic EBT benefits?

A: You can buy most household grocery food items, including:

- Fresh or frozen fruits and vegetables
- Meat, dairy and eggs
- Rice, beans, pasta, and other dry goods
- Breads and cereals

You cannot use your P-EBT card to purchase prepared meals sold hot and ready to eat or any restaurant meals. You cannot buy non-food items like diapers, cleaning supplies or medicine.



Q: I have been getting extra money on my SNAP card each month since March. Was this Pandemic EBT?

A: No. These are Pandemic SNAP payments. Ohio is giving people on SNAP extra benefits each month to help support families during that pandemic. P-EBT is a separate program. Many families will get both SNAP and P-EBT.



Q: Will Pandemic EBT affect the immigration status of me or my child?

A: No. The public charge rule does not apply to EBT benefits. You can use this P-EBT benefit regardless of your immigration status, or the immigration status of your child.



Q: My child goes to a charter/private school. Are they eligible for the P-EBT payment?

A: If your child's school participates in the National School Lunch program, and your child gets free and reduced priced meals, they are potentially eligible for PEBT. They must meet the additional requirements mentioned above.



Q: My child's school does not have the right address for me. What will happen to my Pandemic EBT card?

A: Your Pandemic EBT card will be mailed to the address your child's school had on file for you. If your address has changed, or you do not get an EBT card and think you should have, call the ODJFS customer service line at 1-866-244-0071.



Q: How can I find out more about Pandemic EBT?

A: Visit <http://ohiopebt.org/>

If you have questions or need legal assistance, please call the
Legal Aid line at **(513) 241-9400**

This is information and not legal advice. These materials were prepared based on the information available about P-EBT on March 1, 2021.