

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 limited 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 twice since the pandemic started: P-EBT Round 1 was paid to families in June 2020 and P-EBT Round 2 will be paid to eligible families in September/October 2020.

Round 1 was 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 will be paid to students who missed school meals in August and September of the current school year, because of remote learning. Round 2 benefits will be paid to children on SNAP by the end of September. Round 2 benefits will be paid to non-SNAP children on a new P-EBT card by the end of October.

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Who can get Pandemic EBT?

	Round 1 (June 2020)	Round 2 (September 2020)
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.
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).
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 PEBT 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 on which children 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 2?

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. Children attending school remotely, or who have not been in their school building for at least five days in a row since school started in August, may be able to get P-EBT for August and September.

Children should get P-EBT for Round 2 if they:

- Are students in Kindergarten – 12th grade,
- Are enrolled in the free and reduced priced meal program in their school, and
- Have missed at least five days in a row of in-person instruction during August – September, because their school was closed or doing remote learning.



Q: If I got P-EBT in Round 1, will I get it in Round 2?

A: Your child(ren) will get the P-EBT Round 2 payment if they meet the requirements. Children can be eligible to get both rounds of payments, but some children may not be eligible for P-EBT Round 2, even if they got P-EBT Round 1.



Q: My child did not get Round 1 P-EBT. I think this was a mistake. Is there anything I can do?

A: Call the ODJFS Pandemic EBT hotline at 1-866-244-0071.



Q: How much will each child get for P-EBT Round 2 benefits?

A: A child will receive P-EBT Round 2 benefits if, during August and September, their school building was closed or they were in a remote or virtual learning program for five days in a row. Each child will get \$29.30 (\$5.86 per day), for each five-day closure or period of remote learning. The total amount each child gets will be based on information given to ODJFS by each school district.



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 2?

A: No. Children are only eligible for P-EBT Round 2 when they have been in remote learning, and not physically present in their school building, for at least five days in a row.



Q: Will I get P-EBT Round 2 if my child had to stay home from school to quarantine?

A: No. P-EBT is only being given to students who are not in their school building because of remote learning.

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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. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services is also trying to call families who are getting P-EBT benefits on their Ohio Direction EBT cards. You may receive a message or "robo" call from ODJFS letting you know if a P-EBT payment is being loaded onto your Ohio Direction EBT card.

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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 P-EBT card. You should get these cards in the mail. Each eligible child will get their own card. Each card will come with instructions on how to activate it. If you got Round 1 P-EBT, your children will get new cards for Round 2 P-EBT. PLEASE KEEP THESE CARDS. If Ohio issues more rounds of P-EBT in the future, the benefits may come on the Round 2 card.

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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.

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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.

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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 has given people on SNAP extra benefits from March through September, to help support families during that pandemic. The P-EBT payment is on top of these payments.

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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 September 30, 2020.