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2023 Summer Pandemic EBT (Electronic Benefit Transfer) Benefits in Utah

The free and reduced-price meal application submission deadline for households is May 1, 2023. Below is the information you need to know about Pandemic EBT benefits for this summer benefits.

What is the 2023 Summer Pandemic EBT program?

A program administered through the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) Food and Nutrition Service and state agencies to supply a one-time benefit amount of \$120 per eligible child to buy groceries for students. Benefits will be issued onto an electronic benefit card during the summer of 2023 from the Department of Workforce Services.

Which students will be eligible?

1. Students enrolled on May 1, 2023, in a National School Lunch Program participating school; and
2. Students approved for free or reduced-price meal eligibility as of May 1, 2023; or
3. Enrolled in a Community Eligible Provision or Provision 2 school on May 1, 2023.

Which students will not be eligible?

According to the state plan approved by USDA Food and Nutrition Service, students beginning enrollment in a NSLP (National School Lunch Programs) participating school after May 1, 2023, will not be considered for Summer Pandemic EBT benefits.

Household free and reduced-price meal applications submitted to the district/charter/school foodservice program after May 1, 2023, will not be considered for Summer P-EBT benefit eligibility.

Who do I contact about school meal benefit eligibility?

To apply for free or reduced-price meals see our new Merit website. The information is found under the menu icon. You can also access it here: <https://www.meritprepacademy.org/meal-menus> or pick up a form either in the front office or from the kitchen. Applications can be completed online or on paper. Please contact Audrey.Merighe@meritacademy.org or Ruth.Campbell@meritacademy.org for more information.

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To find information about the current free or reduced-price meal eligibility see chart below.

Income Eligibility Guidelines

Effective from July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023

Household Size	Reduced price meals -- 185%					Free meals -- 130%				
	Annual	Monthly	Twice-Monthly	Bi-weekly	Weekly	Annual	Monthly	Twice-Monthly	Bi-weekly	Weekly
1	25,142	2,096	1,048	967	484	17,667	1,473	737	680	340
2	33,874	2,823	1,412	1,303	652	23,803	1,984	992	916	458
3	42,606	3,551	1,776	1,639	820	29,939	2,495	1,248	1,152	576
4	51,338	4,279	2,140	1,975	988	36,075	3,007	1,504	1,388	694
5	60,070	5,006	2,503	2,311	1,156	42,211	3,518	1,759	1,624	812
6	68,802	5,734	2,867	2,647	1,324	48,347	4,029	2,015	1,860	930
7	77,534	6,462	3,231	2,983	1,492	54,483	4,541	2,271	2,096	1,048
8	86,266	7,189	3,595	3,318	1,659	60,619	5,052	2,526	2,332	1,166
9	94,998	7,917	3,959	3,654	1,827	66,755	5,564	2,782	2,568	1,284
10	103,730	8,645	4,323	3,990	1,995	72,891	6,076	3,038	2,804	1,402
11	112,462	9,373	4,687	4,326	2,163	79,027	6,588	3,294	3,040	1,520
12	121,194	10,101	5,051	4,662	2,331	85,163	7,100	3,550	3,276	1,638
13	129,926	10,829	5,415	4,998	2,499	91,299	7,612	3,806	3,512	1,756
14	138,658	11,557	5,779	5,334	2,667	97,435	8,124	4,062	3,748	1,874
15	147,390	12,285	6,143	5,670	2,835	103,571	8,636	4,318	3,984	1,992
16	156,122	13,013	6,507	6,006	3,003	109,707	9,148	4,574	4,220	2,110
17	164,854	13,741	6,871	6,342	3,171	115,843	9,660	4,830	4,456	2,228
18	173,586	14,469	7,235	6,678	3,339	121,979	10,172	5,086	4,692	2,346
19	182,318	15,197	7,599	7,014	3,507	128,115	10,684	5,342	4,928	2,464
20	191,050	15,925	7,963	7,350	3,675	134,251	11,196	5,598	5,164	2,582
For each additional family member add	8,732	728	364	336	168	6,136	512	256	236	118

General information about the summer P-EBT program will be updated and posted on the Utah Department of Workforce Services webpage <https://jobs.utah.gov/covid19/pebt/>.

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Frequently Asked Questions

How do I know if I am eligible for free or reduced-price meal benefits? After you complete and return your application, we will notify you of your free or reduced-price benefit approval or denial within 5 school days (usually faster). If you have any questions, please email Audrey.Merighe@meritacademy.org or Ruth.Campbell@meritacademy.org .

If I have children attending schools in different districts and/or charter schools is eligibility shared? Contact each district/charter foodservice department as meal benefit eligibility is not automatically shared among districts and/or charter schools.

My children attend a school that does not charge for meals, do they automatically qualify? If your children are not enrolled in a Community Eligibility Provision or Provision 2 school, your household will need to be determined free or reduced-price meal eligible based on household size and gross income. Contact Audrey.Merighe@meritacademy.org or Ruth.Campbell@meritacademy.org for more information.

Can our household reapply for free or reduced-price school meals before May 1, 2023? Yes. Households do not have to report household size or gross income changes once approved for free or reduced-price meals benefits. When circumstances change, households may reapply for benefits.

What will the P-EBT benefit amount be? Households with eligible students will receive a one-time issuance of \$120 per eligible student.

If I have eligible students, how will I receive the benefits? Benefits will be issued to the existing card the households received with previous school year 2021-2022 P-EBT benefits unless new guardian/parent information is reported by the district/charter/school. Households that have not received previous P-EBT benefits or have a change in guardianship will be mailed a P-EBT card through the US Postal Service using the mailing address provided by the district/charter/school. Households participating in SNAP will receive P-EBT benefits on their current SNAP card. Additional information will be provided with the mailed cards. Visit the DWS P-EBT webpage, <https://jobs.utah.gov/covid19/pebt/>, if you have questions about P-EBT cards and issuance amounts.

Will my eligible students also receive P-EBT benefits for school year 2022-2023 absences or school closures? Utah will not have a School Year 2023 Pandemic EBT plan. This means benefits will not be paid for any COVID-related absences, school closures, or reduced attendance during the school year 2022-2023 as was done in prior years.

What if my mailing address has changed? Notify the school foodservice department by May 1, 2023.

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Do the Summer Pandemic EBT benefits affect you or your child's immigration status? No, the Public Charge rule does not apply to P-EBT.

Can eligible students still take part in their local summer meal programs? Yes. USDA Food and Nutrition Service will post operating summer meal sites in May 2023 for the summer meal service operations (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/meals4kids>).

Can my household decline Summer P-EBT benefits? Households that do not wish to participate in the program will be instructed by the Department of Workforce Service to properly dispose of the EBT card.

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