

# P-EBT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **What is Pandemic EBT or P-EBT?**

The Pandemic-Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) Program is additional money for families to buy food due to COVID-19 related school closures during the 2019-2020 school year.

## **Who will receive P-EBT?**

This program is available to all Alaskan families with school age children who received free and reduced-price school meals in Alaska, or attended a school where meals are free, during the months of March, April, and May of 2020.

## **How much is the benefit?**

Families eligible in March, April, and May of 2020 will receive \$458 for each eligible child. Families that became eligible part-way through the closure will receive pro-rated benefits.

## **What do families need to do to receive the benefit?**

If families are already receiving SNAP benefits, they will receive the additional P-EBT benefit for each school-age child on their EBT card. No additional action is needed.

If families do not receive SNAP, but their children receive free or reduced-price school meals, they will need to opt-in to the program. Families with eligible children will be mailed a form to fill out. These forms were mailed out August 20, and will need to be received back by the Division of Public Assistance by August 31, 2020. If eligible families do not receive the form, or are concerned about their ability to get the form in by the August 31st deadline, they can contact Food Bank of Alaska for assistance: 907-222-3119.

## **Where can families use the P-EBT card?**

P-EBT benefits can be used anywhere SNAP EBT cards are accepted, including superstores, grocery stores, convenience stores, and farmers markets. [Click here to find a store near you.](#) [Click here to see what farmers markets in Alaska accept SNAP.](#)

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## **What can families purchase with P-EBT?**

P-EBT can be used to purchase the same food as SNAP benefits – fruits, vegetables, bread, meats, dairy, etc. Items you can NOT buy include:

- Prepared meals sold hot and ready to eat
- Diapers
- Cleaning products, toilet paper, paper towels, etc.
- Medicine or supplements
- Restaurant food
- Pet food
- Alcohol and tobacco products

[Click here for a complete list of approved food items.](#)

## **How long do families have to use P-EBT benefits?**

The money will carry over from month to month and will only be removed from the card if unused after one year.

## **What should families do with the P-EBT card once they have spent the benefits?**

Families should save the cards, in the event that additional funding becomes available.

## **If a family uses their P-EBT card, can they still access other food resources, including school meals?**

Families using their P-EBT card can still take advantage of all food resources in their community including picking up/receiving meals from schools or community organizations, going to food pantries, and applying for federal nutrition programs such as SNAP. For more information about each of these resources, please go to [foodbankofalaska.org/help/covid19-food-resources](https://foodbankofalaska.org/help/covid19-food-resources).

## **Will using P-EBT impact a family's immigration status?**

The Public Charge rule does not apply to P-EBT benefits and does not impact a family's or child's immigration status. Undocumented students are eligible for P-EBT if they are enrolled in free or reduced-price meals at their school or attend a school that offers universally free breakfast and lunch.

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## **When will families receive P-EBT benefits?**

The roll-out of P-EBT is still being finalized. Families who receive SNAP benefits should receive P-EBT benefits in late August or early September. These benefits will be automatically added to SNAP households' Quest EBT cards.

Families who do not receive SNAP, but otherwise qualify for P-EBT, will be mailed a form to fill out. These forms were mailed out August 20, and will need to be received back by the Division of Public Assistance by August 31, 2020. If eligible families do not receive the form, or are concerned about their ability to get the form in by the August 31st deadline, they can contact Food Bank of Alaska for assistance: 907-222-3119.

## **Will P-EBT continue during the 2020-2021 school year?**

Currently, P-EBT is only available for the 2019-2020 school year and will be a one-time issuance. However, families should keep their cards in the event that additional funding becomes available.

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