

Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for School(s) and School Districts

June 10, 2021

Please visit Oregon.pebt.gov to read the available information on this year's P-EBT benefit program.

How does it work?

The Oregon School Meal Benefit (OSMB) system has been developed as the solution to manage all aspects of P-EBT and connects ODE, schools and the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS). Shared access improves transparency, customer service and most importantly delivers essential nutrition benefits to children enrolled in your school.

Who has access to OSMB?

The ODE Child Nutrition Program has identified school staff permitted to access and use OSMB. ODE and ODHS core teams will provide support to permitted OSMB users to update necessary student, site and district information.

Is training available for OSMB?

OSMB training modules and desk guides will be posted online as of June 28th. Look for more information to come.

What is the starting point of Student Information in this new system?

ODE provided Fall Membership student enrollment and meal eligibility information for public schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) to be consumed by OSMB. The ODE core team will work with private schools to collect and upload student enrollment and eligibility information into OSMB.

What are the cutoff dates for student eligibility?

June 30th is the cutoff date to process eligibility determinations for the 2020-2021 school year. The date the application was submitted may be used as the eligibility effective date, and applications must be processed within the 10-school meal operating days.

Are schools that were approved but did not operate CEP in 2021 included?

P-EBT benefits will be issued for all students enrolled at schools approved for CEP in 2021, even if they didn't operate.

We are providing all meals at no charge using a summer program (SFSP or SSO). Do those students need a free/reduced application?

Unless your school is approved to operate a special provision (CEP or Provision 2 for both meals) students will need to submit a F/R application or be eligible based on other methods of student eligibility.

Do students attending district online schools qualify for P-EBT?

Yes. District online schools are considered a part of the brick and mortar school system.

How will updates to Student Enrollment and/or Eligibility be handled through the year?

School staff will update student information to the entire enrollment and eligibility information in OSMB. That is where you'll see your enrollment lists by site or by district and be able to make changes by student, site, or district.

Is my school eligible?

This is the definition from USDA

1. Participates in the [National School Lunch Program](#)
2. Has been closed, operated with reduced attendance, or operated with reduced hours for at least 5 consecutive days in school year 2020-2021 (All Oregon schools meet this)

How are benefit amounts determined?

Benefits will be retroactive to October 1, 2020. Benefits are determined at the school level based on the learning model utilized by most of the enrolled students, as well as, the type of meal service provided to students. Your school's monthly learning model and meal service information will need to be inputted into OSMB by July 15th.

Eligible students will receive the following amounts:

A full benefit amount of \$136 will be issued each month in which most students attended remote learning or attended a school that did not provide NSLP meal service as a part of the instructional day for students attending on-site.

A partial benefit amount of \$75 will be issued each month in which most students in a school attended a hybrid learning model.

No benefit will be issued for months in which most students in a school attended fully on-site and the school provided meals.

What are the timelines I need to know?

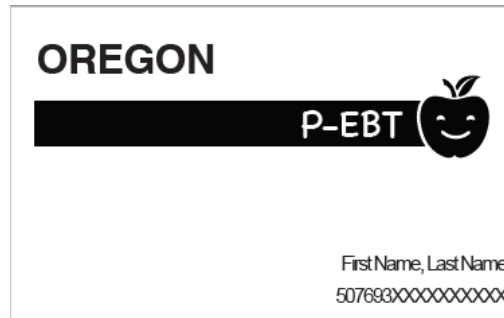
June 28th OSMB training modules will be made available. Stay tuned for more information.

July 1st P-EBT hotline will go live and ODHS will have staff available.

July 15th is the last day for families to update addresses and report EBT cards lost or stolen before new cards are mailed out.

IMPORTANT: July 15th is the deadline to make updates to your school's monthly school learning models. If this information is not updated by 07/15 ODHS will use the ODE weekly status reporting to determine the monthly benefit level for the school which may not accurately determine the correct benefit amounts for your students. Student information can be updated on-going. Student information updated in OSMB by July 15th will help to ensure no further delay in benefits reaching your students.

July 22nd P-EBT benefits will begin going out and families should expect to receive cards in the mail over the next few weeks. Cards will arrive in a white envelope with an out of state address. A handout will be included with the new card to help the family set up a pin number and use the card.



How do I check my on-line meal applications?

To access newly submitted online free and reduced-price meal applications, please follow the steps listed below.

- 1.) Log on to the ODE district secure [website](#).
- 2.) Navigate to the Consolidated Collections -> Student Collections -> Child Nutrition Direct Certification Match ->Free & Reduced-Price Meal Applications.

If you have not previously downloaded the online free and reduced meal applications, please enter the date range as 07012020 through the current date.

For those who have downloaded online free and reduced applications previously, enter the date of the last time you downloaded applications through the current date.

You can download the information in either .pdf (applications) or .csv (excel spreadsheet) format.

How do I answer questions from families about P-EBT?

Please consider posting a link to pebt.oregon.gov on your school's web page. Each NSLP sponsor will have two people with access to the Oregon School Meals Benefit system for P-EBT. This system will give full access to edit student and school eligibility information, student opt-out of P-EBT benefits, as well as confirm mailing address and access to benefit amounts by student. These same questions can be answered by core P-EBT support teams at ODE and DHS.

Who should our school contact if we have P-EBT questions?

School districts should email ODE.schoolsebt@ode.state.or.us. Please refer parents to the [DHS EBT](#) Mail box

For all other questions, please visit pebt.oregon.gov