

How an Oregon Trail Card Works



CARD NUMBER

SIGNATURE BOX



1

Several programs use Oregon Trail Cards to deliver benefits to people who qualify for public assistance. The Oregon Department of Human Services uses them for food and cash benefits. The Oregon Department of Corrections uses them to transfer funds earned while incarcerated to an individual upon release.

2

They work just like bank debit cards and require a secret PIN number to work. Oregon Trail Cards are Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards. Every cardholder selects a secret Personal Identification Number (PIN). The Oregon Trail Card won't work unless the correct PIN is entered at the point of sale.

3

Benefits aren't placed on Oregon Trail Cards. Oregon Trail Cards do not work like gift cards where money can be placed on a gift card and spent down. Oregon Trail Cards work more like bank debit cards where the card is used to withdraw cash from a bank account.

4

A single card can give someone access to benefits from multiple programs. Just like one bank debit card can give a person access to both their checking and savings accounts, an Oregon Trail Card can give the cardholder access to multiple benefit accounts. For example, someone receiving food and cash benefits can use the card at a grocery store to both buy food and withdraw cash in the same transaction. The funds are automatically withdrawn from the appropriate account.

5

When a card is lost, spent benefits are not replaced. A new card will give the cardholder access to the remaining balances in their benefit accounts.



Learn more about Oregon Trail Cards:
www.oregon.gov/dhs/ebt