

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

May 19, 2020

### What is the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer?

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020, has provided additional funding available to families whose children would receive free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the COVID-19 school closures.

Similar to summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (S-EBT), the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) will provide additional funding on a per student basis for families to spend on qualifying food purchases in their community. P-EBT funds go directly to eligible children to bring food into their household. This program helps alleviate food insecurity and increase local spending at the same time.

### How does it work?

The Oregon Trail Card (EBT) system is used to provide funds to ALL eligible students. Existing Oregon Trail Card beneficiaries will have these additional funds added to their cards. Families who do not already have a card will receive one with a letter explaining the program.

Households will receive benefits equivalent to one free lunch and one free breakfast for each eligible student, \$5.70 per regularly scheduled school day affected by the school closures. This includes days during the months of March, April, May and June.

Benefits will be retroactive to March 16, 2020 for students who were eligible to receive free and reduced price meals at the time that schools closed due to the Pandemic. For students newly eligible to receive free or reduced price meals, benefits will start at the beginning of the month that the family's application is certified as eligible. Eligible students will receive the following amounts:

- \$69 for March
- \$126 in April
- \$120 in May
- \$69 in June

### My school participates in the National School Lunch Program. What information do we need to provide in order for our students to receive P-EBT funding?

The Oregon Department of Education Child Nutrition Program sent a data request to all schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program. The request was accompanied by an Excel template that includes specific data fields needed to process the P-EBT for eligible students. This request included information from the school's student enrollment system for all students, in addition to the date the student was determined eligible to receive free or reduced price meals. If a student is in paid status, you will leave the eligibility column blank.

The data request was sent on May 6, 2020 and the information is due by May 19, 2020.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

## Who received the data request?

Each sponsor that participates in the NSLP was sent the data request. The request was sent to District Administrators who submit the Average Daily Membership Report (ADM) and the Executive Contact, CNP Program Manager Contact, Nutrition Services Contact and the Business Manager/Claim Contact as listed in CNPweb.

## What if our school does not participate in the National School Lunch Program?

For a student to be eligible for P-EBT, they must be enrolled in a school or school district that participates in the NSLP and be eligible to receive free or reduced price meals.

## 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 07012019 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.

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

For data inquiries, submissions and all other questions, school districts should email the [ODE School Nutrition](#) mailbox. Please refer parents to the [DHS EBT](#) Mail box

For all other questions, please see ODE's COVID 19 [website](#), under Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer.