

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

May 5, 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 additional funds added to their cards. *Families who do not have a card already 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 child – \$5.70 per normal school day for the months of March, April, May and June.

Benefits will be retroactive to March 16, 2020 for students who received free and reduced-price meals when schools closed. For newly eligible free or reduced-price meals or SNAP households, benefits will start at the beginning of the month they become eligible. Eligible families will receive the following for each child:

- \$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 will be sending a data request to all schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program. The request will be accompanied by an Excel template that includes specific data fields needed to process the P-EBT for eligible students. This request includes information from your school's student enrollment system, in addition, the date the student was determined eligible to receive free or reduced price meals is required.

Once the data request has been sent, schools will have two weeks to respond.

Who will receive the data request?

Each sponsor that participates in the NSLP will receive the data request. The request will be 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?

- The funding for Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer is specific to participants for who if not for the closure of their school during a public health emergency designation and due to concerns about a COVID-19 outbreak, would receive free or reduced-price school meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, as amended, and
- The child's school or district will be (or has been) closed for at least 5 consecutive days during a public health emergency designation and due to concerns about a COVID-19 outbreak.

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

Schools should reach out to their assigned Child Nutrition Specialist with questions regarding P-EBT.