

Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer

Q. Does P-EBT cover head start children?

A. It depends. Because P-EBT is defined specifically for students who are receiving meals through the National School Lunch Program. Head Start programs, depending on where they are, could be getting meals through the National School Lunch Program or through other Child Nutrition Programs. For example, if the head start was in the school, the head start children were enrolled in that school and the meal reports were being provided and claimed in the National School Lunch Program, then those children should be reported to us as qualified for the pandemic EBT benefits. However, if the head start children were being provided meals that were claimed through the Child and Adult Care Food Program, then they are not eligible for the pandemic EBT benefit.

Q. Is there somewhere that families can call or contact to confirm their address?

Unfortunately, it sounds like 211 is no help for families in this regard. Is there a different way that they can confirm their address?

A. DHS has a hotline. The phone number is 503-945-6481. Voicemails will be returned within 48 hours. You may also contact DHS by email at ebt.schoolmeals@dhsosha.state.or.us

Q. In regards to the P-EBT program and dollar distribution. How are we going to ensure that families who are homeless or in between homes, receiving EBT cards? Is this something that we can coordinate about with district's homeless liaisons?

A. The School Nutrition Team has been working with the homeless liaison at the Oregon Department of Education to ensure that a plan is in place to provide EBT cards to homeless students.

Q. Will P-EBT be going through the summer months?

A. At this time, P-EBT will not continue through the summer months. Oregon has applied for Summer EBT which is a program that the state has participated in previously. We hope that this application will be approved so that EBT funds may continue throughout the summer.

Transitioning to the Fall

Q. When will the free and reduced application for 2021 be available? And when it might be available.

A. The goal is to have the application out soon, depending on SSA modifications.

Q. When will we know if we will be approved for serving meals at school in the fall?

A. ODE has developed [guidance](#) which was provided to schools and districts. This includes information for schools on what they need to plan for when it comes to meal services.

Q. When will we get information on how to report our numbers for CEP and what application forms we should use?

A. The CEP application has been posted to the new [Special Provisions page](#). As a reminder, due to COVID-19 there is flexibility allowed. Schools can select any day during the school year between April 1 and June 30 as your enrollment date. In addition, eligibility information for those enrolled students can be anytime between July 1 and June 30.

Q. Do you know if there's any idea if allowable service models or service styles will be modified for next year?

A. Unfortunately, at this time, we don't have any idea on what the flexibilities or the requirements are going to be for CACFP next year

Q. Is CNP still planning to have a taskforce to help inform and follow meal service requirements?

A. Yes, it is. Expect to hear more news about this soon.

Q. What is the final deadline to decide about moving schools to CEP?

A. The deadline for CEP applications this year has been moved to August 31st.

Q. July 1 is coming fast. Is the new Oregon Income eligibility guidelines going to be used on the ODE online application website?

A. As related to the Student Success Act (SSA) nutrition initiatives, the new Oregon Income Eligibility Guidelines will be included. However, due to possible state budget cuts, there is potential that there will be reduced funding for the SSA nutrition initiatives. This may impact funds for the Expanded Income Eligibility Group Reimbursement initiative.

Q. Will Offer vs Serve be waived for 2020-2021?

A. We do not know at this time whether Offer vs Serve will be waived for grades 9-12 during the 2020-2021 school year. Remember that Offer vs Serve is not a requirement for grades K-8 and is not allowed for Pre-K. ODE CNP is joining other states and USDA in discussions of meal service in the coming school year.

Summer Meals

Q. What is required for non SFAs that would like to do home delivery?

A. ODE CNP will be sending out a memo that will outline the additional information that is needed for non SFAs that want to participate in home delivery through the Summer Food Service Program. What we can tell you is that it is much of what was required of SFAs who had applied to do the home delivery model will be required of non SFAs

Q. Can Sponsors use the school food service funds to pay for transportation costs?

A. Yes, transportation costs for delivery of meals is an allowable cost in for the nonprofit Food Service Fund.

Q. How would sponsors allow parent pickup at a city park site? We have to be accountable for our meals so that duplicate meals are not served. Since it is an open site. There may not be a school roster available.

A. One suggestion would be although you don't have a roster available, you can still write down names of folks who are picking up meals. And another thing we have been talking about is that if individuals are picking up for other families, say your neighbor wants to pick up for the kids in the neighborhood they will need to provide some sort of consent form from the parents that shows that they are a person that's able to pick up those meals for additional children. Another option is simply posting a notice, as we've done in the past with summer foods and site roles to let them know that duplicative meals are not allowed, at least that provides them the information.

Q. What do we do if a child care provider is coming to the site to pick up meals for their childcare?

A. Providers that are operating the CACFP cannot be picking up meals from SFSP sites because they need to be claiming those meals themselves. Not allowing them to pick up the meals helps ensure that they're not double claiming these meals.

Q. If buses can serve all summer will their waiver for labor reimbursement be extended?

A. There is currently no waiver for labor reimbursement in the operation of buses. The Governor's Executive Order 20-20 allowed school districts to use Transportation Grant funds to support delivery of meals when using school district transportation services. The Executive Order expires June 30, 2020. However, transportation costs for delivery of meals is an allowable SFSP cost for the nonprofit Food Service Fund.

Q. What are some examples of how districts can ensure no duplicative meals are being served?

A. ODE CNP has created a [resource](#) for sponsors as well as specialists to refer to when it comes to minimizing the duplication of meals that are being served.

Q. If transportation is used for delivery of meals during the summer, are there funds available for reimbursement of those costs.

A. ODE CNP is not aware of any additional funding from the state school fund for transportation at this time. However, we do know that summer meals have become a priority for the governor's office. And there is momentum to hopefully have some support there. ODE CNP is providing Transportation Mini-Grants to sponsors of SFSP and SSO for summer of 2020 only. You can find the grant application and information on the [Special Grants](#) page or contact jessica.visinsky@ode.state.or.us.

Farm to School

Q. You mentioned that there were still funds available for farm to school. And will additional funds be made available from farm to school? Potentially funds that weren't used by other sponsors?

A. Yes, there is going to be a competitive process for additional Farm to School funds. This will be announced soon through the Farm to School Listserv.

USDA Foods

Q. For USDA Foods, will we still order through good source to receive our commodities from the new warehouses?

A. Yes, that's correct. Basically what happened is Good Source merged with Gold Star foods, a school food service distributor out of California. They are both now under the GS Foods umbrella. However, we are still doing business as usual with those staff located in Idaho. And so you'll still be using the webstore ordering system and the contacts will still be the same. Everything will be the same. The only difference you will see is the trucks that come to your location will be different.

Reporting Requirements

Q. Are the PLE tool and the non-program food report being waived this year? Or are those still required?

A. Because we have not received any special guidance from USDA these will continue to be required as usual. The PLE will be released next week. The revenue from non-program foods will be coming after that.

Student Success Act

Q. Can you tell us more about the Student Success Act and its implication for next year on the Child Nutrition Programs?

A. There's a lot of budget decisions that are currently being discussed. We know that those Student Success Act funds are important to you especially when trying to plan for next year. We hope to have information soon on what the nutrition initiatives that are related to student success will look like..

Q. Is there any thought or any trepidation from CNP that the Student Success Act will not be able to cover the 90%? That has been talked about for the expanded CEP or the 300%, which was the expanded eligibility.

A. We wouldn't say there's trepidation but there is potential there that some of those SSA funds that are set aside for nutrition initiatives could be pulled away, it just depends on what the legislature and the governor's office decides as the priorities with those funds. There is the potential that there could be less funds that are provided to nutrition initiatives

Q. When will the previously promised webinar about SSA be coming?

A. We will communicate with school districts once we receive confirmation on SSA budget decisions