

**Amendment to Approved State Plan for Pandemic EBT
Children in School and/or Child Care, Summer 2022**

Issuing Agency/Office:	FNS / Child Nutrition Programs, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Title of Document:	Amendment to Approved State Plan for Pandemic EBT: Children in School and/or Child Care, Summer 2022
Document ID:	
Z-RIN:	
Date of Issuance:	May 9, 2022
Replaces:	N/A
Summary:	(1) This document is a template to assist States in the development of an amendment to extend their approved State plan to operate Pandemic EBT for school children and for children in child care during summer 2022. (2) This document relates to Section 1101 of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127) as amended by the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act (P.L. 116-159), the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260), and the American Rescue Plan Act, 2021 (P.L. 117-2)

Additional context and background for this document can be found at:
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/state-guidance-coronavirus-pandemic-ebt-pebt>

The submission of a P-EBT state plan, associated template and related reporting obligations are addressed in OMB# 0584-0660, expiration 11/30/2023.

**Amendment to Approved State Plan for Pandemic EBT
Children in School and/or Child Care, Summer 2022**

1. **State:** Alabama
2. **Primary Citation:** Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) as amended by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2022
3. **Here's what FNS needs from you:**

- a. If a State chooses to elect the U.S. standard benefit¹, simply check the box below. Next, go to letter 'c' (*Estimated total amount of P-EBT benefits*) of the template.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>By checking this box, we are indicating that our State will use the U.S. standard benefit for the covered summer period. We understand that USDA is only able to offer an interim standard benefit for children in child care at this time; USDA will provide states with additional guidance in mid to late June 2022 / early July that specifies the remaining amount of the USDA standard benefit for children in child care commensurate with the expiration date of the public health emergency.</i>
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- b. If a State chooses not to elect the U.S. standard benefit, FNS needs the following information:
 - The number of days for which benefits will be issued as part of the State's covered summer period; and
 - An explanation for how the State arrived at the number of days in the State's covered summer period. USDA will not approve a plan that does not tie the length of its covered summer period to the actual summer 2022 calendars of an enrollment-weighted average, or the median, of a representative sample of its school districts.
 - For the child care portion of the plan, USDA can only guarantee benefits through July 9. USDA considers this to be 1/2 through the typical State's covered summer period. For purposes of calculating an interim summer P-EBT benefit for children in child care, States may apply this 1/2 fraction to the full summer benefit that the State has calculated for school children.

¹ The U.S. standard benefit – as defined in Question #5 of FNS' Summer 2022 P-EBT Q&As – is equal to the median number of weekdays in a sample of each State's largest school districts multiplied by the daily P-EBT rate. For States in the continental U.S., that works out to a fixed summer benefit of \$391 per eligible child (55 days at \$7.10 per day). The U.S. standard benefit is higher for Alaska, Hawaii, and the territories; see Q/A #15 for a complete set of standard benefit amounts.

- If the State believes that this date is more or less than 1/2 through the typical summer period of the State’s schools, please support your position with data on the most common start dates of the summer break in the State’s schools.
- As discussed in item #16 of USDA’s P-EBT Summer 2022 Q&As, USDA will provide states with additional guidance by mid to late June / early July that specifies the remaining fraction of the full USDA standard benefit that States may provide to children in child care.

Response: N/A

c. Estimated total amount of P-EBT benefits the State will issue within this amendment’s date range (Consult the appropriate table in Section 4, “Benefit Levels”).

- Estimated amount issued to school children
 - \$189,635,000 = (485,000 School Children x \$391 Standard Benefit)
- Estimated amount issued to non-school children in child care
 - \$48,875,000 = (125,000 Child Care x \$391 Standard Benefit)
 - The State acknowledges that the full amount of \$391 Summer P-EBT benefits may not be available to children in child care depending on the status of the Public Health Emergency (PHE) and whether or not it is terminated prior to June 30, 2022. As a result, prior to issuing Summer P-EBT benefits to children in child care in September 2022, the State will review the status of the PHE, any additional guidance from FNS, and determine the correct Summer P-EBT benefit amount for children in child care in order to prevent an over issuance.
 - Alternate calculation in the event that children in child care are not eligible for the full standard benefit amount:
 - \$24,375,000 = (125,000 Child Care x \$195 Minimum Benefit)

d. Estimated total number of children to which the State will issue P-EBT benefits (includes children in Private School and Residential Child Care Institutions- see chart below).

- Estimated number of school children
 - 485,000
 - This total estimate of school children also includes private schools that participated in the (NSLP) during the 2021-2022 school year. According to the information provided by the Alabama Department of Education (ALSDE) to the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR) eligible private schools include the following:
 - Fort Rucker Dependent School
 - Maxwell AFB Elementary School
 - Holy Family School - Huntsville
 - Sacred Heart School - Cullman
 - St. James Catholic School
 - Little Flower Catholic School

- Most Pure Heart of Mary School
 - St. Mary's School
 - Alabama School Of Fine Arts
 - Alabama Institute for Deaf & Blind
 - Mental Retardation Board of Dale County/Vivian B. Adams School
 - Resurrection Catholic School
 - Cornerstone Schools of Alabama, Inc
 - Trinity Evangelical Lutheran School
 - Prichard Preparatory School
 - New Life Christian Church Academy
 - Developing Alabama Youth Foundation, Inc.
 - Ephesus Academy
 - Holy Family Cristo Rey
 - Valiant Cross Academy
 - Estimated number of non-school children in child care
 - 125,000
- e. Tentative P-EBT issuance schedule (the dates on which Summer P-EBT benefits will be issued). Note that USDA encourages States to distribute summer benefits in two or even three issuances across the summer, to the extent practical.
- School children
 - DHR plans to distribute Summer P-EBT benefits to school children according to a staggered issuance schedule on multiple dates as indicated in the chart below for Cycle 4 of the previously approved P-EBT plan for SY 21-22.
 - See the proposed issuance chart below.
 - Children in child care
 - DHR plans to distribute Summer P-EBT benefits to children in child care according to a staggered issuance schedule on multiple dates as indicated in the chart below for Cycle 4 of the previously approved P-EBT plan for SY 21-22.
 - See the proposed issuance chart below.

Issuance Cycle:

Cycle 4	Summer P-EBT	Issuance Dates
School Children	Benefits Issued For:	Staggered Issuance
School Districts	Summer Months (Standard 55 Days)	September 1-30, 2022

Cycle 4 (continued)	Summer P-EBT	Issuance Dates
Child Care	Benefits Issued For:	Staggered Issuance
Covered Child Care Facilities	Summer Months (Standard 55 Days)	September 1-30, 2022

Cycle 5	Summer P-EBT	Issuance Dates
Review Discrepancies	Benefits Issued For:	Staggered Issuance
School Children and Child Care	Summer Months (Standard 55 Days)	October 1-31, 2022

- f. Describe how the State will identify eligible school children and children in child care for summer P-EBT. You must address each of the following bulleted items, below, when responding.

For school-aged children:

- Describe how the State will identify school children who received P-EBT benefits during the last month of SY 21-22.
 - The State did not issue P-EBT benefits to school children for SY 21-22.
 - However, the State issued P-EBT benefits to children in child care for SY 21-22.
- Describe how the State will identify school children who were eligible for free or reduced price school meals under the NSLP and SBP in SY 21-22 but did not receive P-EBT benefits in the last month of the school year because they attended school in-person and benefitted from a free or reduced price meal service at school. This includes children who were eligible for F/RP meals during the school year and did not receive P-EBT benefits because the children attended school in-person during the school year.
 - The State did not issue P-EBT benefits to school children for SY 21-22; however, for Summer P-EBT, the State will identify school children who were eligible for free or reduced price school meals under the NSLP and SBP in SY 21-22 by using the data file provided by ALSDE to DHR for the students that were eligible for free or reduced priced meals during the last month of school in May 2022 which will deem them eligible for Summer P-EBT.

- ALSDE will not rely on free and reduced priced eligibility lists from SY 20-21 to determine eligibility for Summer P-EBT 2022. Alabama schools reset free and reduced price eligibility for all students at the start of SY 21-22. ALSDE has the ability to share this data with DHR in order for Summer P-EBT eligibility to be determined for school children based on the current school year.
- High school students that graduated in May 2022 and were eligible for free or reduced priced meals in May 2022, will be eligible for Summer P-EBT and included in the data file sent by ALSDE.
- High school students that graduated in May 2022 and were not eligible for free or reduced priced meals in May 2022, will not qualify to complete a new NSLP application for free or reduced priced meals; therefore, they will not be eligible for Summer P-EBT.
- DHR will match the data file received from ALSDE to ensure eligible school children are issued Summer P-EBT.
- Describe how the State will identify children who are determined newly eligible for free or reduced-price school meals during the covered summer period. States must provide an opportunity for families to apply for free or reduced-price meals using the normal application process. States and SFAs should consider maintaining a minimum presence to process Free and Reduced-Price Meal applications, perhaps on a part-time or weekly basis. Another alternative is for SFAs to accept new Free and Reduced-Price Meal applications during the summer but only process them after the start of the new school year. Children determined eligible on applications *submitted prior to the end of the summer* could then be issued P-EBT benefits retroactively after the start of the new school year. (Note that it is preferable to process applications and issue benefits during the summer period that the benefits are intended to cover).
 - In order to identify children who are determined newly eligible for free or reduced price school meals during the covered summer period, schools will accept NSLP applications during the summer months for families that opt to apply for free or reduced priced meals, during an open enrollment process.
 - ALSDE will provide data to DHR of school children newly eligible for free or reduced priced meals that apply and submit NSLP applications during the open enrollment period of July 1, 2022 through August 31, 2022. School districts will process these applications at the end of the covered summer period. The deadline for newly eligible students to be considered for Summer P-EBT will be August 31, 2022.
 - Note: Applications received after schools end classes and begin their summer breaks cannot be used to provide retroactive P-EBT benefits for SY 2021-2022. These applications will be considered for Summer P-EBT only.

- ALSDE will send the data file to DHR in the beginning of September 2022 for families that applied during the open enrollment period and were determined to be eligible for free or reduced priced meals.
- Children newly certified for free or reduced priced meals during open enrollment will receive the total standard Summer P-EBT amount that the State proposes to issue (\$391 per child), regardless of the date that the child became eligible for free or reduced priced meals. Benefits will not be prorated.

For children in child care:

- Describe how the State will identify children who are enrolled in SNAP during the covered summer period and who received P-EBT child care benefits in the last month of the school year.
 - In order to identify SNAP-enrolled child care children who received P-EBT benefits during the last month of SY 21-22, ALSDE will provide DHR with the data for the students that were eligible for free or reduced priced meals during the last month of school in May 2022 which will deem them eligible for Summer P-EBT.
 - DHR will match the data file from ALSDE before adding Summer P-EBT benefits to the SNAP case for SNAP-enrolled child care children.
 - DHR will identify children under age six through SNAP participation files after the initial Summer P-EBT issuance in order to identify SNAP-enrolled child care children.
 - If children under age six have not already received Summer P-EBT benefits, they will be issued Summer P-EBT benefits on the SNAP household's EBT card.
 - This is in an effort to avoid issuing duplicate Summer P-EBT benefits to a child under age six.
 - DHR does intend to issue new EBT cards for Summer P-EBT benefits to participants that did not receive an EBT card for the regular P-EBT issuance for SY 2021-2022.
 - Students that received P-EBT benefits for SY 2021-2022 will receive Summer P-EBT benefits on the same EBT card previously issued.
 - The State acknowledges that the full amount of \$391 Summer P-EBT benefits may not be available to children in child care depending on the status of the Public Health Emergency (PHE) and whether or not it is terminated prior to June 30, 2022. As a result, prior to issuing Summer P-EBT benefits to children in child care in September 2022, the State will review the status of the PHE, any additional guidance from FNS, and determine the correct Summer P-EBT benefit amount for children in child care in order to prevent an over issuance.
 - The State acknowledges that if the PHE ends during the summer, child care children who do not become SNAP eligible until after the end of the PHE would not be eligible for a P-EBT summer child care benefit (even the reduced \$195 benefit).

- DHR proposes the following simplified assumption: A 5 year old child who was determined to be eligible for child care P-EBT who turned 6 during the 2021-2022 school year, will continue to be eligible for P-EBT as a child care student throughout the school year; therefore, the child will also be eligible for Summer P-EBT as long as they remain enrolled in SNAP during the summer.
- The State confirms that the P-EBT summer program is an extension of P-EBT for school year 2021-2022. Children starting kindergarten in the fall of 2022 are not eligible for P-EBT summer benefits as school children. They may, of course, be eligible for summer child care benefits if they began school year 2021-2022 under age 6 and are enrolled in SNAP during the summer.
- Describe how the State will identify children who are enrolled in SNAP during the covered summer period and who would have received P-EBT child care benefits in the last month of the school year, but did not receive benefits because their child care facility was not closed or operating at reduced attendance or hours in that month, and neither their child care facility nor the child's residence was in the area of a school that was closed or operating at reduced attendance or hours in that month.
 - In order to identify SNAP-enrolled children who would have received child care benefits in the last month of the school year but did not, ALSDE will provide DHR with the data file for the students that were eligible for free or reduced priced meals during the last month of school in May 2022 which will deem them eligible for Summer P-EBT.
 - DHR will identify children under age six through SNAP participation files after the initial Summer P-EBT issuance to identify SNAP-enrolled children.
 - DHR will match the household's data file from ALSDE before adding Summer P-EBT benefits to the SNAP case for SNAP-enrolled child care children.
 - This is in an effort to avoid issuing duplicate Summer P-EBT benefits to a child under age six.
- Describe how the State will identify children who are part of a SNAP household who are newly eligible for P-EBT child care benefits during the covered summer period
 - In order to identify children who are part of a SNAP household who are newly eligible for P-EBT, ALSDE will send the data file to DHR for families that applied during the open enrollment period and are determined to be eligible for free or reduced priced meals.
 - DHR will match the household's data file from ALSDE before adding Summer P-EBT benefits to the SNAP case for SNAP-enrolled child care children.

- SNAP children newly certified for free or reduced priced meals during open enrollment will receive the total standard Summer P-EBT amount that the State proposes to issue (\$391 per child), regardless of the date that the child became eligible for free or reduced priced meals. Benefits will not be prorated.
- Newly Certified SNAP Households:
 - New families approved for SNAP during the Summer P-EBT timeframe in will also be deemed eligible for Summer P-EBT.
 - DHR will run a separate file to identify children under age six that are included in newly certified SNAP households.
 - DHR will match the household's data file against the ALSDE data file before adding Summer P-EBT benefits to the SNAP case for SNAP-enrolled child care children that have been newly been certified for SNAP to prevent duplicate participation.
 - Summer P-EBT benefits will be added to the household's existing EBT card in September 2022.
- New SNAP Household Members:
 - Children born during the Summer P-EBT timeframe will be added to SNAP existing SNAP cases will also be eligible for Summer P-EBT.
 - Children added to existing SNAP cases during the Summer P-EBT timeframe in will also be eligible for Summer P-EBT.
 - DHR will run a separate file to identify children under age six that are added to existing SNAP households during the Summer P-EBT timeframe.
 - DHR will match the household's data file against the ALSDE data file before adding Summer P-EBT benefits to the SNAP case for SNAP-enrolled child care children that have been newly added to existing SNAP cases to prevent duplicate participation.
 - Summer P-EBT benefits will be added to the household's existing EBT card in September 2022.

4. Confirmation of remaining elements in the State's approved school plan and/or child care plan

- Please confirm that your P-EBT summer plan mirrors your approved school year 2021-2022 plan for EBT Processing and Benefit Issuance as well as Customer Service (Sections 7 and 8 of the [SY 21-22 State Plan Template for Pandemic EBT](#)). You do not need to describe in detail how you will handle these matters if your summer plan mirrors your approved school year plan(s); but if your summer plan materially differs from your approved school year plan(s), please describe how.

- EBT Issuance:
 - Students that received P-EBT benefits for SY 2020-2021 will receive Summer P-EBT benefits on the same EBT card previously issued.
 - SNAP-enrolled child care children that received P-EBT benefits for SY 2021-2022 under the State’s P-EBT for Child Care plan, will have Summer P-EBT benefits added to the household’s existing EBT card.
 - EBT cards issued for Summer P-EBT to newly eligible households will include the following:
 - A description of P-EBT
 - Instructions for creating a Personal Identification Number (PIN)
 - Explanation of where benefits can be used
 - Explanation of how benefits can and cannot be used (i.e., eligible foods and non-eligible items)
 - Explanation of violations and penalties, such as trafficking
 - An indication that benefits are non-transferable
 - Instructions for destroying the card, if they want to decline benefits
 - Information regarding a hotline, helpdesk, or website/portal that participants can reach out to, if they have questions, need assistance (setting up a PIN, for example)
 - General information will be included as an insert with the EBT card such as: P-EBT program information, EBT card activation, instructions for choosing a PIN number, benefits are non-transferrable, violations and penalties, instructions for destroying the card
 - EBT (Conduent) customer service number and website will be located on the EBT card
 - Additional information will be provided by ALSDE through mass text messaging, website, and written announcements
 - P-EBT description and uses will be included on the DHR website

- Public Information Campaign:
 - DHR and ALSDE will issue a joint press release to announce Summer P-EBT to the general public in order to inform parents, guardians, and the general public of program details and eligibility criteria. The press release will include the Summer P-EBT program information.
 - DHR will continue to provide the P-EBT Customer Service Call Center information on the DHR website in which inquiries can be made by telephone or live chat. CSRs will be available to discuss and answer questions regarding Summer P-EBT for school children, children in child care, and the Summer P-EBT eligibility criteria.

- Summer P-EBT program information will be provided to the P- EBT Customer Service Call CSRs to ensure that accurate information is provided to parents/guardians that inquire about the program.
 - Dispute Resolution:
 - DHR has established a Customer Service Unit to resolve disputes or issuance errors of Summer P-EBT benefits.
 - A P-EBT customer service call center phone number has also been established for parents/guardians to contact and report issues which will be relayed to DHR.
 - Upon the report of a dispute, the P-EBT Customer Service Call Center Customer Service Representative (CSR) will collect the parent/guardian’s information, child’s information, school or child care facility attended, and nature of the dispute.
 - The Customer Service Unit will research the dispute, the EBT benefit issuance (if applicable), and determine if the dispute is valid or invalid.
 - The parent/guardian will be contacted by telephone with the resolution of the dispute.
 - If the disputes become excessive, DHR will designate additional, experienced staff members to address the disputes as needed.
 - Serving Marginalized Communities:
 - DHR will assist vulnerable groups and/or households that express having challenges or issues with accessing Summer P-EBT or Summer P-EBT program information.
 - Limited English Proficiency (LEP) households may contact the P-EBT customer service call center and a translator service will be provided free of charge.
 - Individuals who are hearing impaired, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities can call the Alabama Relay Service at 711 or 800-548-2546 (TTY) for assistance.
 - Free Communication Assistance information is included on the DHR website at: <https://dhr.alabama.gov/free-communication-assistance/>
 - ALSDE offers assistance accessibility. Inquires may be submitted at: <https://www.alsde.edu/accessibility>.

5. Benefit Levels

A. U.S. Standard Benefit

Standard Benefit for School Children

2022 Covered Summer Period	U.S. Standard P-EBT Benefit School Children		
	Median Length of Covered Summer Period (weekdays)	Daily P-EBT Rate	Standard Benefit
Contiguous U.S.	55	\$7.10	\$391
Alaska	55	11.44	629
Hawaii, Guam, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico	55	8.28	455

- DHR elects to issue the standard benefit amount of \$391 retroactively in September 2021 to eligible school children and children in child care.

Standard Benefit for Children in Child Care (Interim)

2022 Covered Summer Period	U.S. Standard P-EBT Benefit Children in Child Care (Interim)			
	Median Length of Covered Summer Period (weekdays)	Length of the Summer During the Public Health Emergency	Daily P-EBT Rate	Interim Standard Benefit
Contiguous U.S.	55	1/2	\$7.10	\$195
Alaska	55	1/2	11.44	315
Hawaii, Guam, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico	55	1/2	8.28	228

State-Determined Benefit, Based on Daily Rate

Note: The daily benefit amount – \$7.10 – is only needed if a State elects to set its own covered summer period length; that is to say, if a State declines to use the U.S. standard benefit.

2022 Covered Summer Period	Free Reimbursements			
	Lunch	Breakfast	Snack	Daily Total
Contiguous U.S.	\$3.75	\$2.35	\$1.00	\$7.10
Alaska	6.03	3.78	1.63	11.44
Hawaii, Guam, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico	4.37	2.74	1.17	8.28

Notes:

1. Lunch rates include the 7 cent performance-based reimbursement and the extra 2 cents per meal received by school food authorities in which 60 percent or more of the lunches served during the second preceding school year were served free or at a reduced price.
 2. Breakfast rates are those received by "severe need" schools.
 3. Snack rates are those for afterschool snacks served in afterschool care programs
- Source: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-07-16/pdf/2021-15107.pdf>

Civil Rights Statement

The State will continue to comply with civil rights requirements by not discriminating on the ground of race, color, or national origin, by providing meaningful access to its programs and activities for individuals who are limited English proficient, and by providing equal access to individuals with disabilities.

- The State of Alabama acknowledges the above statement.

Administration of State P-EBT Plan

The State will administer P-EBT according to the terms of its approved State plan. In general, conditions related to benefit issuance reporting, administrative funding, and release of information remain in effect for the covered summer period. If the State wishes to change any of the terms of its plan, the State shall first notify USDA and will, if requested by USDA, submit a plan amendment for USDA review and approval.

- The State of Alabama acknowledges the above statement.

Reminder

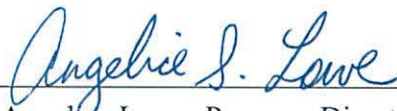
If the State needs to make any significant changes to its Summer 2022 plan after approval, the State needs to submit an amendment to FNS that describes the change and its impact on operating summer P-EBT. USDA will review the amendment and approve allowable amendments.

- The State of Alabama DHR acknowledges the above statement.

Signatures and Titles of Requesting SNAP and Child Nutrition State Agency Officials:



Brandon Hardin, Director
Alabama Department of Human Resources
Food Assistance Division



Angelice Lowe, Program Director
Child Nutrition Programs
Food Distribution/Statewide Procurement
Alabama State Department of Education

Date of Request: May 25, 2022