




STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
**Human Services Department**  
**Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham**  
David R. Scrase, M.D., Cabinet Secretary  
Angela Medrano, Deputy Cabinet Secretary  
Kari Armijo, Deputy Cabinet Secretary  
Karmela Martinez, ISD Director

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## **Interim Policy & Procedure Memorandum**

### **ISD IPP 20-21**

**TO:** ISD Employees   
**FROM:** Karmela Martinez, ISD Director  
**RE:** Revision - Pandemic-EBT  
**DATE:** June 30, 2020

New Mexico has been approved to operate Pandemic EBT (P-EBT), as authorized through The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), to supplement the cost of meals that would have otherwise been consumed at schools for students that qualify for free or reduced-priced-meals (FRPM) if their school had not been closed due to the pandemic.

Approximately 256,000 New Mexico children are eligible for FRPM in participating schools the during 2019-2020 school year. Children otherwise eligible for FRPM, if not for the closure of their school during a public health emergency designation will receive P-EBT benefits. P-EBT benefits will cover March 16, 2020 through June 19, 2020.

The P-EBT benefit amount is calculated at \$5.70 per child, per school day prorated for each month:

- March P-EBT benefits will be \$68.40 per child.
- April P-EBT benefits will be \$125.40 per child.
- May P-EBT benefits will be \$119.70 per child.
- June P-EBT benefits will be \$85.50 per child.

P-EBT benefits will not be rounded like regular SNAP and will be issued in exact amounts for each month. P-EBT benefits will only show on the Benefit Issuance page and will display as "P-EBT." The case will not show P-EBT benefits on eligibility summary, only on the Benefit Issuance page.

Please refer to release notes 8.0 for any questions regarding how P-EBT benefits will display in ASPEN.

The Public Education Department (PED) has identified all FRPM eligible children and the data was sent to HSD to begin the card processing.

Children that are eligible to receive the P-EBT benefit had to have been eligible for FRPM as of June 16, 2020. If the child was not eligible for FRPM as of June 16, 2020, they are not eligible for the P-EBT benefit.

All P-EBT Cards will be mailed to recipients by mid July 2020.

For questions regarding this IPP please refer to the P-EBT plan at:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource-files/NM-SNAP-COV-PEBT-Approval%20Letter.pdf>

Or contact Gavino Archuleta, SNAP Program Manager, via e-mail at [Gavino.Archuleta@state.nm.us](mailto:Gavino.Archuleta@state.nm.us) or by telephone at 505-827-7244.

Attachment: Pandemic EBT Frequently Asked Questions



# Help Feed Your Children with Pandemic EBT

*Students eligible for free or reduced-price breakfast and lunch at school can get food benefits. This is in addition to their pickup meals from school. These extra food benefits are called Pandemic EBT or P-EBT. The child will get \$5.70 for each weekday that they would have been in school. That is from March 16 through June 19, 2020.*

## **Who will get P-EBT?**

All children who can get free or reduced-price school meals are eligible. So are those who go to a school where all students get free breakfast and lunch. **Households can get P-EBT regardless of immigration status. P-EBT will not be considered when determining public charge.**

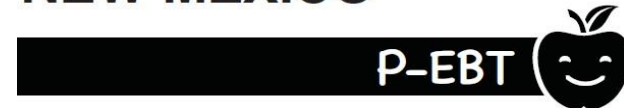
## **How will you get P-EBT Benefits?**

Eligible families get funds on an EBT card. (It is like a debit card). You will get the P-EBT funds on your current EBT card if you have one. That is if you have an active SNAP or TANF case. If you do not, a P-EBT card with the funds on the card will be mailed. It will go to the address that your child's school district has on file. P-EBT cards will begin to go out around June 7, 2020.

## **Where can you use your P-EBT Benefits? What can you buy?**

P-EBT funds can be used to buy food wherever you can use SNAP EBT. Look for signs that say, "We accept SNAP EBT." Visit [www.fns.usda.gov/snap](http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap). There is more there on which stores you can use. There is more there on eligible food items.

## **NEW MEXICO**



## **Does P-EBT replace sites serving free school meals?**

Your household may still be able to pick up meals at your children's school. The P-EBT benefits are in addition to these meals.

## **Do you need to apply for P-EBT?**

No. If your child gets free or reduced-price meals at school, they are already enrolled in P-EBT. If they go to a school where all students get free meals, they are already enrolled in P-EBT.

If your child does not now get free or reduced-price meals, but you believe he/she may be eligible, contact your child's school district.

