

# Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) & Other Food Resources

**2021-2022**



# Pandemic EBT



## What is it?

- Additional money to help buy food for students who miss school due to COVID-19
- Buy food wherever SNAP is accepted

## Who is it for?

- Students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program. This includes any student in a school that provides free meals to all students (called “Community Eligibility Provision”), **AND**
- **Missed school due to COVID-19 related absences.**

## How will I get it?

- If you have an EBT or P-EBT card: P-EBT benefits are added on the 25th of each month
- If you are new to P-EBT:
  - **Get SNAP and/or TAFDC?** Check your EBT card for funds.
  - **Do NOT get SNAP and/or TAFDC?** You will get a P-EBT card in the mail.

# What are COVID-Related Absences?

Missed school days due to COVID-related reasons include but are not limited to the following:

- Absences due to a positive COVID test
- Absences due to asymptomatic close contact or quarantine
- Absences due to student being symptomatic in accordance with the state's COVID absence policy (any symptoms that would keep students' home from school, COVID positive or not)
- Days that a student participated in remote learning (either due to temporary school closure or due to remote learning during quarantine) also count as P-EBT eligible days

**No confidential health information about COVID-related absences is shared with the state for P-EBT eligibility**

# How much will I get?

If your student is eligible, you will get 1 of 3 P-EBT amounts each month. The amount depends on the number of days your student was out of school due to a COVID-19 related reason (based on data from the school district).

The monthly amounts are:

- 1-5 absences: **\$21 a month** (per student)
- 6-15 absences: **\$71 a month** (per student)
- 16+ absences: **\$128 a month** (per student)



# When will I get my benefits?

*On May 25, 2022, you will get Sept 2021 through Apr 2022 P-EBT funds in ONE issuance.*



After the bulk retroactive issuance on May 25:

Each month, you will get P-EBT funds for the month before:

- May P-EBT benefits will be paid on June 25<sup>th</sup>
- June P-EBT benefits will be paid on July 25<sup>th</sup>

# How will I get my benefits?

**P-EBT Benefits will be issued on the last card you received  
P-EBT benefits in the past.**

## Got it on a P-EBT card in the past?

- Funds will be added to the P-EBT card you already have
- Check your balance by calling the number on the back of your P-EBT card OR check your P-EBT balance online (click on the “P-EBT Case and Account Balance Information” page on [dtaconnect.com/pebt](https://dtaconnect.com/pebt)) starting May 25.
- You do NOT need to re-apply for P-EBT.
- You do NOT need to reactivate your card.

## Got it on an EBT card in the past?

- Funds will be added to the EBT card that you already have even if you no longer receive DTA benefits. If you no longer have your EBT card, call the DTA Assistance Line or login to DTA Connect to request a replacement EBT card.
- Check your balance at [DTAConnect.com](https://DTAConnect.com), the DTA Connect mobile app or call the number on the back of your card starting May 25.
- You do not need to re-apply for P-EBT.



**New for  
P-EBT  
School Year 21-22  
(SY21-22)**

# Notices

For School Year 2021-22 (SY21-22) families will receive a separate notice for each student, including DTA households.

Notice will include information on how the P-EBT payments will be made

## Paid on P-EBT card

Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance

{PARENT\_NAME}  
{PARENT\_ADDRESS}  
{PARENT\_CITY/TOWN, STATE, ZIP}

Case Number: {CAS\_NUM} 1  
Date: {MM/DD/YYYY}

**P-EBT Benefit Information**

Dear {PARENT\_NAME},

On {ISSUE\_DATE}, we issued {CHILD\_NAME} {PEBT\_TOTAL\_AMT} in food benefits called **Pandemic EBT (P-EBT)** for the 2021-2022 school year.

Children are eligible for P-EBT if they:

- are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals under the National School Lunch Program; or
- attend a school with free school meals for all students (because of a special policy called Community Eligibility Provision); **AND**
- have COVID-related absences reported by their school

**Got P-EBT before?** You will get the 2021-2022 school year P-EBT on your child's existing P-EBT card. 2 Check your balance at [DTAConnect.com/PEBT](https://DTAConnect.com/PEBT) – click on the 'P-EBT Case and Account Balance Information' tab. Or, call the number on the back of the card.

**Never got P-EBT before?** We mailed you a P-EBT card in {CHILD\_NAME}'s name. You will get it in the mail soon. If you have not gotten it by mid-June, request a replacement card at [DTAConnect.com/PEBT](https://DTAConnect.com/PEBT).

3 You will need the **last 4 digits of the child's P-EBT case number** - {CASE\_NUM} - and the **child's date of birth** to create a PIN for the P-EBT card.  
Note: If you have more than one child in your household, you will receive a separate P-EBT card and notice for each eligible child.  
**Please hold onto this letter until you have gotten and created a PIN for the card.** Future P-EBT benefits will be issued on the same card. In the future, if you don't have your child's P-EBT case number or need to request a replacement P-EBT card, go to [DTAConnect.com/PEBT](https://DTAConnect.com/PEBT).

## Paid on DTA EBT card

{CLIENT\_NAME}  
{CLIENT\_IN\_CARE\_OF}  
{CLIENT\_ADDRESS}  
{CLIENT\_CITY/TOWN, STATE, ZIP}

Agency ID: {AP\_ID} 1  
Date: {MM/DD/YYYY}

**P-EBT Benefit Information**

Dear {CLIENT\_NAME},

On {ISSUE\_DATE}, we issued {CHILD\_NAME} {PEBT\_TOTAL\_AMT} in food benefits called **Pandemic EBT (P-EBT)** for the 2021-2022 school year.

Children are eligible for P-EBT if they:

- are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals under the National School Lunch Program; or
- attend a school with free school meals for all students (because of a special policy called Community Eligibility Provision); **AND**
- have COVID-related absences reported by their school

2 You received School Year 2021-2022 P-EBT benefits for {CHILD\_NAME} on your existing DTA EBT card. Check your balance on [DTAConnect.com](https://DTAConnect.com), the DTA Connect mobile app, or call the number on the back of your EBT card. Your balance includes the P-EBT plus your SNAP. If you need a new EBT card, call {IVR\_NUMBER}, use DTA Connect, or go to a DTA office. 3



# P-EBT Review

For School Year 2021-22 (SY21-22) families can request a review of their P-EBT benefit issued amount by completing a “Request to Review P-EBT Amount” Form.

## Where do I find the “Request to Review P-EBT Amount” Form?

- Each student’s P-EBT Benefit Notice from DTA will have an enclosed copy of the form.
- There will be a P-EBT Benefit Notice and enclosed form for **each** individual student (including those in DTA households).

## What information do I provide on the form?

- Make sure student information is completed correctly on Page 1 (front page) of the form.
- For the Page 2 (back page) absence table, refer to your student’s P-EBT DTA notice to fill out column #1, and fill out column #2 with the corrected number of missed school days you report for your child.
- Read the attestation and provide parent signature and contact information.
- **\*\*The form is for per child.** If there are multiple children, you need to complete a form per child.

## Where do I send the form?

- To the school administrator/P-EBT contact as identified by your child’s school.

# Request to Review P-EBT Amount Form

## Back of the form

**NOTE:** For months where you write down a higher number of days than what the school reported, your school may ask you to provide proof. For example, an email sent to your child's school reporting the absence or a medical note about COVID.

Month	Number of days school reported child was out for COVID-related reasons (see attached letter for reasons)	Number of days your child was out for COVID-related reasons
September 2021		
October 2021		
November 2021		
December 2021		
January 2022		
February 2022		
March 2022		
April 2022		
May 2022		
June 2022		

*For example: In January, Maria was absent for 10 days. She missed 5 days waiting for COVID test results, and 5 days when she tested positive for COVID. Maria was issued \$21 in P-EBT for January (covering 5 days). Her school knew she was out for 5 days with COVID but had not recorded that she was also absent waiting for COVID test results. Maria's Mom fills out this form and writes that Maria was absent for 10 days in January. She also tells the school she left a message on the absence phone line about the days waiting for test results.*

**Read and Sign Here:**

I certify (promise) that all information on this form is true and that the days specified above are days that my child did not attend school in person for a **COVID-related reason**. I understand that this information is given in connection with the receipt of Federal funds, and that school officials may verify (check) the information. I am aware that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted under applicable State and Federal laws.

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Phone Number

School Official Signature (cosign)

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the agency (state or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at: [How to File a Complaint](#), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410. fax: (202) 690-7442; or email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

**NOTE:** For months where you write down a higher number of days than what the school reported, your school may ask you to provide proof. For example, an email sent to your child's school reporting the absence or a medical note about COVID.

Month	Number of days school reported child was out for COVID-related reasons (see attached letter for reasons)	Number of days your child was out for COVID-related reasons
September 2021		
October 2021		
November 2021		
December 2021		
January 2022		
February 2022		
March 2022		
April 2022		
May 2022		
June 2022		

*For example: In January, Maria was absent for 10 days. She missed 5 days waiting for COVID test results, and 5 days when she tested positive for COVID. Maria was issued \$21 in P-EBT for January (covering 5 days). Her school knew she was out for 5 days with COVID but had not recorded that she was also absent waiting for COVID test results. Maria's Mom fills out this form and writes that Maria was absent for 10 days in January. She also tells the school she left a message on the absence phone line about the days waiting for test results.*

**Read and Sign Here:**

Data shared by the school (refer to your DTA letter)

Data that you report for your student

P-EBT Reminders!

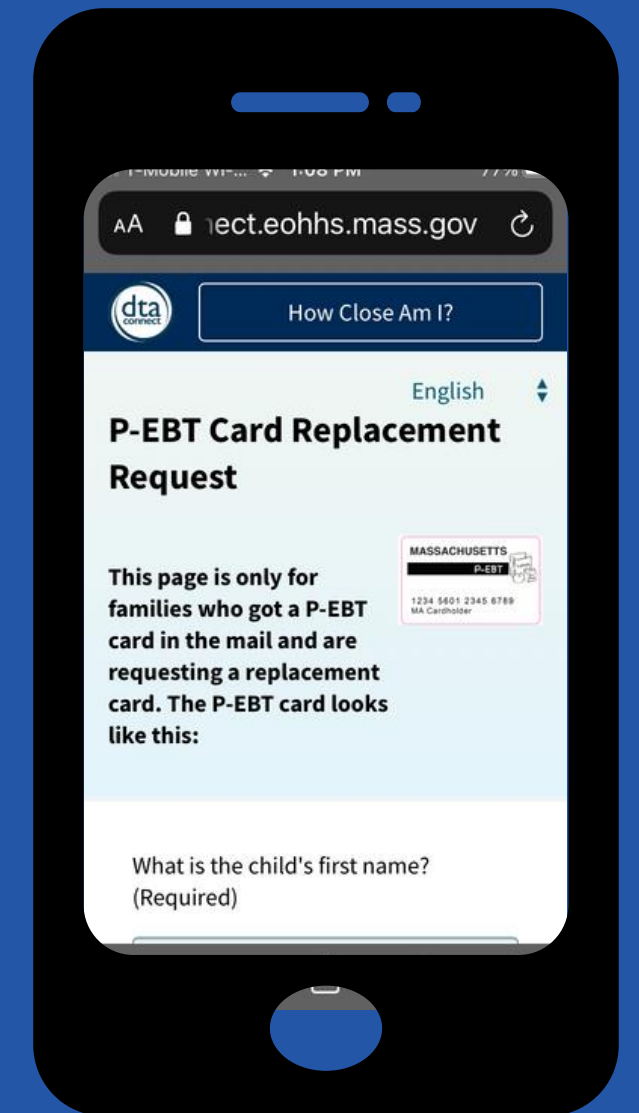
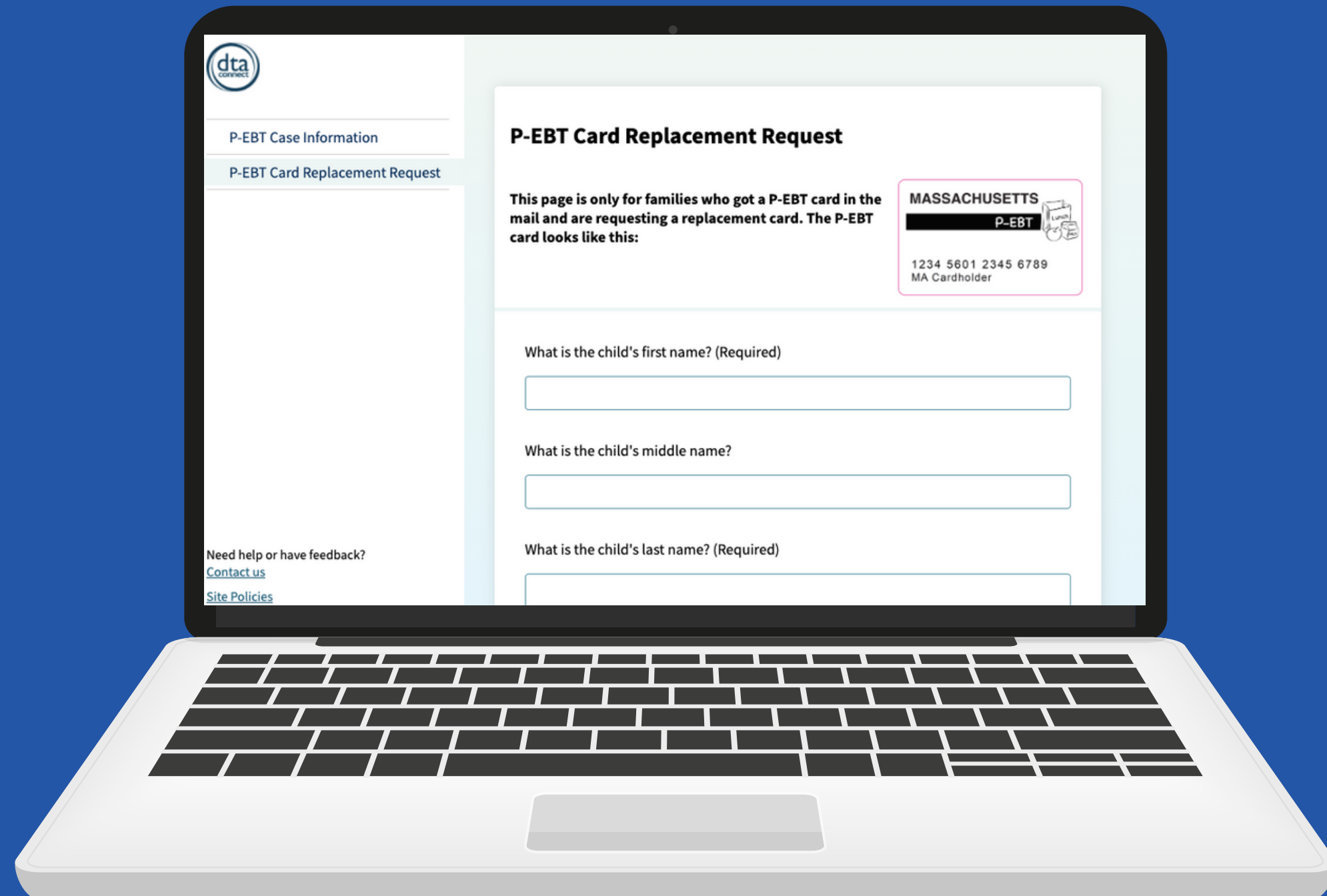


# Will using P-EBT impact my immigration status?

- NO! P-EBT is NOT subject to public charge
- USDA and DTA have both confirmed that use of P-EBT benefits does not cause any “public charge” problems
- Using P-EBT will not impact you or your child/student's immigration status
- More: [www.MAp-EBT.org/faqs](http://www.MAp-EBT.org/faqs)

# No longer have your P-EBT card?

- Request a new one at [DTAConnect.com/PEBT](https://DTAConnect.com/PEBT).
- You will be sent a P-EBT replacement card



# Outreach Materials

- Will be available at [Map-EBT.org](http://Map-EBT.org) *soon* in **11** languages
- Materials include:
  - Flyer
  - Social media text & graphics
  - Email template
  - Text/robo call template

## Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) food funds for the 2021-2022 School Year

### Can I Get P-EBT?



### You will get P-EBT if your student:

- Got P-EBT in the past,
- Qualifies for free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), or
- Goes to a school that has free school meals for all students (Community Eligibility Provision- CEP)\*, and
- Missed school due to COVID-related reasons. Examples include:
  - Student had COVID, had to quarantine, or missed school waiting on a negative test
  - Student's school was temporarily closed for remote learning

No confidential health information about COVID-related absences is shared with the state for P-EBT eligibility

\*Right now all students get free school meals because of special COVID rules. Visit [MAP-EBT.org](http://MAP-EBT.org) for a list of CEP schools. Contact your school to apply for NSLP if you did not receive P-EBT in the past and your school is not CEP.

### How Much Could I Get?

It depends on how many days a student was out of school for COVID related reasons:

1-5 absences = \$21/month

6-15 absences = \$71/month

16+ absences = \$128/month

### How & When Will I Get The Funds?



- P-EBT payments will be available **May 25** (September 2021 - April 2022 absences), **June 25** (May absences), and **July 25** (June absences).
- If you got P-EBT in the past, check the DTA EBT or P-EBT card you already have!
  - Need a new DTA EBT card? Request one on DTA Connect, call **877-382-2363** or go to a DTA office
  - Need a new P-EBT card? Visit [DTAConnect.com/pebt](http://DTAConnect.com/pebt) or call **877-382-2363** and press **7**
- **If you are new to P-EBT:** check your mail for a P-EBT card or, if you get DTA benefits, check your DTA EBT card.

Using P-EBT & SNAP does not impact you or your child's immigration status. It is safe to get these benefits. Summer P-EBT is coming. Keep your card.

[MAp-EBT.org](http://MAp-EBT.org) • DTA Assistance Line: **877-382-2363** - Press "7"

Get more monthly food money with SNAP - up to \$835 for a family of 4!

You can get P-EBT & SNAP at the same time. [MAp-EBT.org/SNAP](http://MAp-EBT.org/SNAP)



# P-EBT Help



[www.MAp-EBT.org](http://www.MAp-EBT.org)



877-382-2363

Press "7"

# Need more help?

## SNAP

- Monthly financial food assistance to help pay for groceries
- Find out if you are eligible & get help applying:  
[DTAconnect.com](http://DTAconnect.com)

## Grab & Go Meals

- Free meals for kids & teens 18 and under
- No registration or ID required

Learn More:  
[www.meals4kids.org/summer](http://www.meals4kids.org/summer)

## Women, Infants & Children (WIC)

- Provides healthy foods, nutrition education and other services for free for families with pregnant mothers and young children