



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Transitional Assistance


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Online Guide Transmittal 2021-24
March 25, 2021

To: Department of Transitional Assistance Staff
From:  Sarah Stuart, Associate Commissioner for Change Management
Re: **Pandemic EBT for Children 0-5 Years and New P-EBT Benefit Amounts**

Overview

The Continuing Appropriations Act of 2021 has extended Pandemic EBT (P-EBT), a provision initially included in The Families First Coronavirus Response Act. This is a food benefit for families with children who qualify for free or reduced-price school meals through the federal School Breakfast Program and/or National School Lunch Program. These food benefits are meant to compensate for the value of school lunch and breakfast for each eligible child.

Massachusetts recently received approval from the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to amend its current P-EBT plan. This approval expands P-EBT benefits to children, age 0 to 5 years old, who have been an active or ineligible member in a SNAP household as of October 1, 2020. The plan also modified the monthly P-EBT benefit amounts as follows:

- Children enrolled in a **hybrid** learning model will receive **\$68.20** in P-EBT benefits for the reported month.
 - Children enrolled in a **fully remote** learning model will receive **\$136.40** in P-EBT benefits for the reported month.
 - Children, 0-5 years old who are present in an active SNAP household, will receive a P-EBT benefit amount corresponding to the learning model that was most commonly reported by DESE statewide for school-aged children in a given month.
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Eligible students who were inadvertently excluded in the Spring 2020 or September issuances were issued retroactive P-EBT benefits on March 12, 2021.

P-EBT was issued to active DTA households as well as households that do not currently receive DTA benefits but include children who receive free or reduced-price school meals.

P-EBT benefits can be used anywhere that SNAP benefits are accepted.

Purpose

This Online Guide Transmittal advises staff of changes to the Online Guide regarding the expansion of P-EBT eligibility which now includes children, age 0 to 5 years old, who have been or are members of a SNAP household since October 1, 2020. In addition, this OLG update advises staff of the new P-EBT amounts that will be paid for the remainder of the school year.

**Revised Online
Guide Page**

Topic:
Page:

COVID-19
School Year 2020-21 P-EBT Benefits

Questions

If you have any policy or procedural questions, after conferring with the appropriate TAO personnel, please have your Systems Information Specialists or TAO management email them to DTA.Procedural Issues.

Systems issues should be directed to the Systems Support Help Desk.
