

Coming Soon
to Maryland!

New Food Benefits for Maryland Students that Qualify for Free & Reduced-Price School Meals

What you need to know about the new P-EBT program to help families while schools are closed

What is the new food benefit for students?

The new P-EBT program, or Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer, provides benefits on a debit-style EBT card to help families with children purchase healthy food while schools are closed.

Will I get P-EBT benefits?

All students that qualify for “free or reduced-price school meals” are eligible for P-EBT benefits.

All students at Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) schools are eligible for P-EBT. In CEP schools, ALL students receive free breakfast and lunch.

If you aren't sure if you qualify for free or reduced-price school meals, you can apply now, or at any time during the year, by filling out a [school meal benefit application](#). Call your school district or go to your school district's website for more information.

Note: All low-income students are eligible for free and reduced price meals and P-EBT benefits, regardless of immigration status. Information provided on the school meal benefit application is not shared with the federal government.

How does P-EBT work?

Each school-aged child in your household will receive approximately \$114 a month in benefits.

If your household receives SNAP benefits, the P-EBT payments are automatically added to your SNAP card. Previously called food stamps, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, is also known as the Food Supplement Program, or FSP, in Maryland.

If your household *does not* currently receive SNAP benefits, you will receive a new P-EBT card. You can use P-EBT benefits to purchase food at stores that accept SNAP, EBT, or the Independence Card.

What if I do not get SNAP?

If you think you may be eligible, we encourage you to apply for SNAP. The best way to apply is to go online to mydhrbenefits.dhr.state.md.us and click “create account.” You can also call the Department of Human Services at 1-800-332-6347.

If you have trouble, or need help applying, call Maryland Hunger Solutions at 1-866-821-5552.

