

P-EBT Webinar Questions and Answers

January 28, 2021

Thank you for your participation in the webinar. Below are the questions and answers captured during the webinar. Please also reference the school [P-EBT questions and answers](#) published by the Ohio Department of Education and the household P-EBT questions and answers on the Job and Family Services [webpage](#). Additionally, Job and Family Services has a P-EBT flyer on the webpage to share with qualifying households to raise awareness of the P-EBT.

- 1. When a parent opens their P-EBT envelope, will there be any document inside explaining why they have received a P-EBT card? Do you have a copy of the letter?** To raise awareness of the P-EBT benefit, schools are highly encouraged to send households of qualifying students P-EBT information ahead of time. JFS has a flyer and question and answer document on their [P-EBT webpage](#) and there are additional resources for communications with households on this Ohio [P-EBT webpage](#) maintained by community partners. Households will get information with the card on how to activate the card and what the card is used for.
- 2. Will ODJFS ensure families are aware that the benefit amount they receive for each child may not be the same dollar amount due to all of the criteria specific to individual buildings, grades, or students? I anticipate numerous phone calls from parents to the schools when this occurs.** ODJFS is updating system functionality to issue an approval notice, but this will not be ready for the first issuance of benefits. The notice that households will receive will list the amount of money provided. Schools can assist with the first round of benefits issued by helping explain that households will receive \$5.86 for each P-EBT approved day.
- 3. If kindergartners are just eating breakfast with us because they only go for half the day, do they qualify for the benefit?** Yes. If the Kindergarteners would have been offered breakfast under the School Breakfast Program had the pandemic not occurred, the free or reduced price eligible Kindergarten students qualify for this benefit. If the students are being offered breakfast at school to eat at school, then these days do not qualify for P-EBT. Remote education days will qualify for P-EBT.
- 4. Why would a student who only gets a breakfast because they are in a half day kindergarten and don't normally eat lunch get \$5.86 per day?** USDA has authorized the full \$5.86 per day as long as a child is eligible for at least one meal.
- 5. If we don't serve Kindergartner's breakfast or lunch do we not include them either-like the PreK kids?** Correct, if a school would not be offering school

breakfast and/or school lunch to either the Pre-school or Kindergarten children, the school will not include the children for P-EBT benefits.

6. **Our 3 hour a day afternoon kids can come to school early to eat a lunch in the cafeteria does this count?** It depends. If the meal is offered as a planned part of the child's school day, you will not include those days for P-EBT. If the meal service is optional and not a planned part of the school day, you can include these days for P-EBT.
7. **Will a new P-EBT card be sent out or will the one sent over the spring be refilled?** A new P-EBT card will be sent in February, this card will be used for the remainder of the school year with benefits loaded to this card (if they can not be loaded to a household SNAP card) monthly through the school year for each month the child is eligible.
8. **To clarify - Students out for COVID 1-4 consecutive days are NOT eligible for benefits at this time? It must be 5 or more CONSECUTIVE days?** The 5 consecutive days is a school level situation. If the school has already met the 5-day criteria, you can count any quarantine instruction days even if it is less than 5.
9. **What if you are running SFSP and CACFP for all feedings?** CACFP and SFSP (non-school sites) are not eligible to submit for P-EBT currently. CACFP P-EBT guidance is forthcoming, Non-school SFSP sponsors and sites are not authorized for the benefit.
10. **If a student is court placed and has been removed from the placement in your district and moved to another court placement in another district how and who is to get the PEBT funds?** The district can report for the days that the student was within the district up to date of withdraw.
11. **We are in session 4 days and have remote Fridays do we count remote Fridays:** If the school has met the 5 consecutive days requirement, the school can submit for the free and reduced students for the Friday remote days.
12. **Do we have to include students who were free/reduced for 2019-20 but did not submit a free/reduced application for the 2020-21 school year?** Yes, the school should include these children in the benefit file as USDA has approved school year 2019-2020 eligibility determinations to be used for P-EBT if a new 2020-2021 eligibility determination wasn't made.
13. **We are approved for NSLP but currently operate under SSO. Can we still have students participate?** Yes. See question 4 of the ODE school [Q and A](#).

14. **So, we must deduct the hybrid days that the student do attend, correct?**
Yes, deduct any days a child was at the school building and offered at least one meal (breakfast or lunch) at school to eat at school.
15. **Our students are hybrid, each group attends 2 days and off on Fridays. They receive breakfast at school and a grab & go lunch at dismissal. Each group would be eligible for 3 days of benefits weekly correct? Yes, the students would be eligible for 3 days of P-EBT a week in this scenario.**
16. **If a student is absent from remote learning on a certain day, do they get EBT benefits for that day?** Yes. You do not need to track absences. You can provide P-EBT based on the planned schedule of remote education days for a student.
17. **If we are 5 days/week going forward, does this only apply for our Option 2 (fully remote) students?** Yes, it would apply for your fully remote students going forward and any students that were to be in person but are home learning due to quarantine.
18. **We understand if under the SSO that the students would qualify - but how are we to know all of the students that should be included - since applications were not accepted. So, will not know who would qualify as a reduced student or free based on income?** Please know that students do not automatically qualify for P-EBT just by their school being on SSO or SFSP. The school must determine children as eligible based on 20-21 eligibility determinations, 19-20 eligibility determinations (if 20-21 eligibility documentation was not received) or all students qualify if the school would have been on CEP or Provision 2 for lunch had the pandemic not occurred. See question 5 of the [school Q and A](#) for more details.
19. **So, all SSO are considered 100% eligible for P-EBT--not just Free or Reduced?** No, see above question. Students do not qualify for P-EBT (or economic disadvantage) just by the school offering no cost meals to all students through the SSO and SFSP. The student must qualify for free or reduced meals. See question 5 of the [school Q and A](#) for more details.
20. **Students are in residential facility receiving educational instruction should they be included in data submission?** No, if the student is in a residential institution and is being offered meals to eat at the institution they should not be included for P-EBT for the days at the residential institution.
21. **Can an unplanned day off due to water main break count if there is remote instruction?** Yes, if there is remote instruction the school can count this day for P-EBT.

- 22. Our schools aren't closed and haven't been, but we do offer a remote option for those who choose...does this meet the criteria?** Yes, you can submit free and reduced student names for P-EBT for the kids that have opted remote instruction. See question 3 of the school [Q and A](#) for more information.
- 23. What if we had a Snow Day during someone's Quarantine time. Do we count that day?** No. You can only count instruction days for P-EBT. If a snow day occurs with no instruction, you can not count this day for P-EBT for any students.
- 24. Do snow days count if not doing remote learning?** No, you can only count days where instruction occurs for P-EBT.
- 25. We are in person. PK-12 we have had instances of entire grade levels going in to quarantine due to exposure and our 7-12 were virtual learners for a period at the request of the state and county, and we have gone virtual for a week or 2 as well. Do these "quarantine" times qualify?** Yes. You can submit these days for your P-EBT qualifying students.
- 26. If a student is quarantined, would they be eligible for 5 days instead of just the virtual days they are scheduled for?** The free or reduced student would be eligible for P-EBT for all remote education days during the quarantine.
- 27. If a district student attends an ESC classroom and both the district and ESC submit a file with that student, will they receive 2 cards or is there a process to prevent duplicates?** Although there is a process for preventing duplicates, we do ask that the schools work together to try to prevent duplicate submission.
- 28. In our district, we have students who are special needs from the Franklin County DD. We do feed these kids, does the FCBDD report these kids? They are not necessarily in our school district.** Either school can report the students, we ask the schools to work together to determine who will report.
- 29. Our County Board of DD school initially applied for the NSLP program and then to the SFSP. We then closed our cafeteria at the end of October and contracted with a local district to provide our meals beginning in November. We have submitted previous P-EBT information and have received a link for the upcoming submissions. Is it appropriate for us to submit the spreadsheet using our specific link?** Yes, either your school or the school now providing the meals may submit your free or reduced students for their qualifying P-EBT days.

30. **For students that would attend half day at a career center and half day at their home school - who should include them?** See above two questions, either school could include them. The schools should work together to avoid duplicate submissions of a student.
31. **Does it matter if a Grab-n-Go meal was provided vs. the usual hot meal? What if meal is consumed at home after a Grab and go picked up?** Students may still be submitted for P-EBT if the district or school has offered grab and go meals or pick up and take home meals. See question 1 of the school [Q and A](#) for more information.
32. **Clarification on Grab & Go Lunch - if some students eat it at school while & others eat it at home because the instructional day technically ended, those days count for PEBT eligibility... correct?** Yes, if the meal is not part of the planned day for a student and is optional for them to take part, the day can still be counted for P-EBT.
33. **If meals are offered on a school day but the child refuses meals that is still counted as a day meals are served which would then disqualify that day, correct?** Correct. If the student was offered a meal as part of a planned meal service during the day to eat at school but the student refuses, that day does not count for P-EBT.
34. **If a student "qualifies" after the beginning of the year, do we count all the days from the first day of school, or does it start on the first day that they qualified?** If the school has moved to SSO or SFSP for the year, the school did not have to change free or reduced status for a student after the 30 day carry over. These students are still free or reduced in 2020-2021 and qualify for P-EBT. If a student changed status due to a new 2020-2021 eligibility determination, you would start the paid status as of the date of the application processing. The student could get P-EBT up to the date of which they became paid. You will report 0 for subsequent P-EBT reporting months.
35. **What if a student was eligible for free or reduced lunch last school year but eligibility has changed this year?** See the question above. If the student changed status due to the end of the 30-day carryover, schools did not actually have to change the status of students if they had changed to SSO or SFSP. If it was due to a new eligibility determination for school year 2020-2021, you can submit for P-EBT qualifying days up to the date that the student became paid.
36. **If students are not on this first round because we stopped collecting applications due to being approved for the SSO - once we verify they would**

qualify will their account be back dated the 2nd round to cover this time period? Yes, any new determinations made up to the point of the Feb 2 data submission can be assumed free or reduced to the beginning of the school year and qualifying days submitted to the beginning of the school year (or Aug 1, whichever is later).

37. What if a child qualifies for free but a parent waives eligibility rights does the family qualify for P-EBT? The school should reach out to the household and have them submit in writing if they are also waiving the P-EBT benefit.

38. Are Grade Level 23 students included then? Documentation is indicated Preschool and K-12. Yes, Grade 23 students if still enrolled in the district are considered “high school grade” or under. The students in this program that are free or reduced can qualify for eligible P-EBT days.

39. If students qualify one month but not the next, do you enter a 0 to the month field or do you leave blank? Yes, you can either leave blank or put in a 0

40. Also, should districts include all students that qualify for free/reduced lunch and then only enter a number of days for those that are eligible? Would you then leave the students that do not qualify with a blank or 0's? Yes, for months a student doesn't qualify you would leave a blank or enter a 0.

41. Are we breaking any HIPAA laws by reporting kids that have been quarantined? You are only reporting the count of days for P-EBT for any given student, not the reason why for the count of days.

42. What format do you want the information loaded in? There is a data dictionary that gives the format for each field. Look under the data management in the P-EBT portal.

43. What if student has withdrawn from our school? The school should report the student for their qualifying P-EBT days up to the date of withdrawal.

44. If a district receives report back to correct what kind of corrections are they looking for? The report will indicate if the error is fatal or if the error is informational. Fatal errors must be corrected before the student record is processed for P-EBT benefits. Informational errors should be double checked, but no further action is needed for these student records to be processed.

45. **If we are not tracking on the POS and using SSO tally sheets, how are we to track the students in school?** The school still needs to be tracking student enrollment and student schedules. This would be the information to reference for the P-EBT.
46. **How does this affect a non-EMIS reporting school? (A public separate school):** all schools must submit their data through the P-EBT portal through a secure link even if the school does not have a relationship with an ITC.
47. **Is ODJFS prepared to answer the parent/guardian's questions instead of referring back to school district or schools as they have in the past?**
Schools will be able to see in the portal if a student record was submitted for P-EBT and processed. If a household calls and should have been on the P-EBT list but was not submitted, the school needs to submit the student's information in the next data collection. JFS can not add a student to P-EBT based on a household phone call. Students have to be submitted from the school through the secure link in order to get P-EBT. The P-EBT call center will help with address changes but cannot assist the household if the school did not include the student on the P-EBT list. Please see question 13 of the school [Q and A](#) for more information.
48. **Does that mean that when the next collection comes, we will have to delete values in Aug, Sept, etc.?** No, you can keep the previous months data in the template. The information will be disregarded in subsequent data submissions if the student has already received P-EBT for that month and the count of eligible days remained the same. If a student should have received more P-EBT days, the school can correct the count of days in the next data submission and the system will detect that the student is owed more benefits for any given month and process this accordingly.
49. **We have a Program where the students are placed at a group home and court placed. Do we use our district address for them or the social worker/agency?** District address is preferred to help maintain security of the cards.
50. **Where is acceptable spreadsheet for submission found? Is the historical available?** The template is available in the data management section of the P-EBT portal.
51. **What is the time frame for getting the data submission back?** It should be rather quick but could be delayed a bit leading up to Feb 2 if many districts and schools are submitting at once.

