

# Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT)

Betsy West Suver

Ohio Job and Family Services

November 2, 2021

# School Eligibility First

A school child is eligible for P-EBT if two conditions are met:

- The child does not receive free or reduced-price meals at the school because the school is closed **OR** operating remote learning\* **OR** has been operating with reduced attendance or hours (*includes hybrid schedules*) for at least 5 consecutive days; **and**
- The child would have received free or reduced-price meals under NSLP or SBP if not for the COVID health emergency.

\*remote learning does not include online virtual schools

# Online Virtual Schools v. Remote Learning

- **Online virtual school** – if all of the following criteria are met:
  - Separate and distinct IRN from other school buildings in the district;
  - IRN is not affiliated with a physical building;
  - Permanent option (not in place through the COVID-19 pandemic only);
  - Students do not have an option to show up in person at a school building; and
  - The school is not eligible to operate NSLP.
- **Remote learning option**
  - Option is available due to COVID-19 public health emergency
  - Child still enrolled in the physical school building
  - Students are eligible to receive free or reduced price meals through the school
  - Students will return to the building whenever the school decides to stop remote learning

# Examples of Eligible School Status

- Entire school is remote learning;
- Hybrid learning schedules. Examples:
  - Remote learning M, W, F and in-person T, Th
  - Remote learning one week, in-person other week
- Children have the option of attending fully remote learning from the school district even though the school may be operating fully in-person;
- Children who normally attend school in-person full time but have had to quarantine due to COVID for at least 5 consecutive days – *one child in quarantine makes the school eligible.*

# Summary of Criteria

## School

- School has operated on a non-standard schedule for at least 5 consecutive days due to COVID ***and*** meals are not provided to eat at school

## Child

- Child is eligible for free or reduced-price meals

## Days *Eligible* for P-EBT Benefits

Once the school criteria has been met and the child has NSLP eligibility, the child is eligible for P-EBT benefits for the days he or she:

- Does not attend school in person (*e.g. remote learning or closed a certain day of the week as part of a reduced attendance schedule*), or
- Attends school in person but does not receive a meal at school to eat **at school** (*e.g. children attend in-person for 3 hours but no meal service is provided to eat at school*), or
- Is quarantined *based on school quarantine criteria* (does not have to be 5 consecutive days), or
- Snow days where the school switches to remote learning

# Days *Ineligible* for P-EBT Benefits

The following are not eligible for P-EBT benefits are:

- Weekends
- Holidays
- Scheduled school breaks and days off not related to COVID (e.g. Christmas break, spring break, teacher in-service days)
- Snow days where there is *no instruction occurring remotely or in-person*
- Any days a child attends school in-person and receives a meal (breakfast or lunch) to eat at school

# Resources for Families

- <http://ohiopebt.org/> (Ohio Association of Foodbanks)
- <https://jfs.ohio.gov/ofam/p-ebt.stm> (Ohio Dept. of Job and Family Services)
  - P-EBT Questions and Answers for Families (will be updated soon to reflect this school year's information)
  - P-EBT Card Buckslip (instructions for the P-EBT card)
  - All documents will be translated into 6 other languages (Spanish, Somali, Mandarin, Arabic, Russian and French)



# P-EBT: Ohio Department of Education Resources

Brigette Hires

November 2021

# Question and Answer Resource

- <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Student-Supports/Food-and-Nutrition/School-Year-2021-2022-Pandemic-Electronic-Benefits>
- Education.ohio.gov
  - Search Pandemic electronic

# Common Questions

- Students attending a 100% online school (even if operated by a district) with no building affiliation are not eligible for P-EBT (question 8)
- Eligibility starts from the date an application was received or the date of a direct certification match (question 7)
- Even though all students are receiving no-cost meals under Seamless Summer, the school must determine free or reduced eligibility for P-EBT (question 4)
- Students eligible in 2020-2021 through direct certification must have a new 2021-2022 eligibility to continue with P-EBT (question 4)

# Common Questions

- Quarantine days may be counted (question 2)
- Students may be “high school grade” or below and receive P-EBT, not affiliated with a specific age (NSLP regulations)
- Withdrawn free or reduced students may be submitted for qualifying days up to the date of withdraw

# P-EBT Data

Melissa Balbaugh

Management Council

# Student Data

- Only previous months will be accepted
- Do not remove columns from the template
- **Do not filter or sort data.** If this is done incorrectly, it can result in students receiving a new PEBT card and potentially an overpayment.
- Do not change the student's name. If the student has a legal name change, contact support.
- If the student has punctuation in his/her name, it must be submitted the same each month to ensure funds continue to be applied to the same card.
- Check the format for the DOB. It must be mm/dd/yyyy (leading zeros may be dropped)
- Students with invalid or missing address
  - Students without an address will not be accepted.
  - A district address may be used to distribute the PEBT cards to students.
    - This should be in exceptional cases only

# Change in Student Guardianship

- Funds will continue to be applied to the existing card. The card is expected to go with the student.
- If the card does not follow the student, the district must request a new card to be sent to the new guardian address
- Contact support at 866-244-0071, option 1
  - Provide the date of guardianship change
  - New guardian name and address
- This will lock the previous card and existing funds will be applied to the new card. Additional funds will be applied to the new card.

# Where to submit

- Messaging sent to EMIS Coordinators, Food Service Directors and Superintendents.
  - Must use the secure link to access the upload area of the portal.
  - <https://www.ohio-k12.help/pebt-portal/>
- Template is available under Data Management
- Template for 2021-2022 school year is the same as last year



# Data Submission Report

- Available through the P-EBT Portal and emailed to the submitter

PEBT Load Submission Report											
											1/25/2021 4:14:00 PM
District: District Name (888999)											
Import ID	Date Loaded	Records Loaded	Records Not Loaded	Total Loaded To Date							
		This File	This File								
785336b1-e5f0-47fa-bb43-14941b3874d8	1/25/2021	0	52	20385							
<b>Errors Found:</b> If students listed below have <b>FATAL</b> severity, those records <b>WILL NOT</b> be loaded and must be corrected and resubmitted.											
File	District	Gender	Remote	Primary	Mailing	Phone	DOB	Child	Middle	Invalid	
File Name	0	0	0	0	2	50	0	0	0	0	
District IRN	Building IRN	Child Last Name	Child First Name	Child MI	DOB	Issue					Severity
888999	880011	Information Cleared	Information Cleared		11/11/1111	Area Code > 3 or Phone Number > 7					Fatal
888999	880011	Information Cleared	Information Cleared		11/11/1112	Part of Mailing Address is NULL					Fatal
888999	880022	Information Cleared	Information Cleared		11/11/1113	Address Greater Than 19 Characters					Informational
888999	880022	Information Cleared	Information Cleared		11/11/1114	Age between 19 & 22					Informational

# Portal Demo

# Deadlines

- Oct 14
- Nov 12
- Dec 9
- Jan 13
- Feb 10
- Mar 10
- April 14
- May 12
- June 9
- July 14

Each month, you may submit students for any prior month. For example: October will only permit students who with eligible days in Aug/Sept. November will permit Aug/Sept and Oct.

# Corrections to Previous Submissions

- After P-EBT funds have been issued for a given period (i.e. Aug/Sept), the district can view Issued Benefits
- If there are omissions or corrections, the student may be added to the next month's submission and the correct **total** days for that period should be submitted
  - Example: Johnny was submitted for 5 days for Aug/Sept and should have received 15 days. Submit Johnny the next month with 15 days in the Aug/Sept column. We will subtract the already funded days and submit Johnny for 10 days.

# Questions

- Contact Support
  - P-EBT portal support form
  - Email: [Pebt-support@ohio-k12.help](mailto:Pebt-support@ohio-k12.help)
  - Phone: 866-244-0071, option 1