

# Policy Transmittal

## Office of Self-Sufficiency Programs



Heather J Miles, SSP SNAP Director

**Authorized signature**

**Number:** SS-PT-21-008

**Issue date:** 05/17/2021

**Topic:** Other

**Due date:** 05/17/2021

**Transmitting (check the box that best applies):**

- New policy   
  Policy change   
  Policy clarification   
  Executive letter  
 Administrative Rule   
  Manual update   
 Other: Pandemic EBT Approval for 2020-2021 School Year

**Applies to (check all that apply):**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees                     | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging: Types A and B | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services                                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aging and People with Disabilities    | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Self Sufficiency Programs             | <input type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children's Intensive In Home Services           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County DD program managers                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU)                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support Service Brokerage Directors              | <input type="checkbox"/> Other ( <i>please specify</i> ):                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children's Residential Services             |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Child Welfare Programs                |   |

<b>Policy/rule title:</b>	Pandemic EBT		
<b>Policy/rule number(s):</b>	TBD	<b>Release number:</b>	
<b>Effective date:</b>		<b>Expiration date:</b>	
<b>References:</b>	The Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 (( <a href="#">PL 116-127</a> ), as amended by the Continuing Appropriations Act 2021 and Other Extensions Act ( <a href="#">PL 116-159</a> ), the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021 ( <a href="#">PL 116-260</a> ), and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 ( <a href="#">PL 117-2</a> )		
<b>Web address:</b>	<a href="http://www.pebt.oregon.gov">www.pebt.oregon.gov</a>		

## **Discussion/interpretation:**

Oregon is approved to issue Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) for the 2020-2021 school year.

Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) is part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and provides food benefits to families with children missing meals due to school and childcare closures. ODHS has partnered with the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to provide these food benefits to over 572,000 eligible children statewide.

### **New for 2020-2021**

- SNAP children 0-6 not enrolled in school may be eligible
- Benefits Levels
- Retroactive Issuance

***Important:** P-EBT is separate from SNAP benefits including emergency allotments that are also being issued due to the impact of COVID-19. P-EBT benefits are not considered in a public charge test and do not impact immigration status.*

## **Implementation/transition instructions:**

A new Oregon School Meal Benefit (OSMB) system was designed to support the unique components of Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) and Summer EBT for Children (SEBTC) Programs. This work will not be integrated into our larger eligibility ONE system. This work is supported through a central team of Limited Duration staff. Access to OSMB is limited to the central team. A Quick Reference Guide (QRG) and Eligibility Transformation Operational Process (ETOP) will be released in late June to help direct questions to the OSMB Team.

**P-EBT is a program administered in partnership with the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and ODHS.**

ODHS and ODE share responsibility in ensuring children across Oregon receive P-EBT benefits. ODE collaborates with school districts across Oregon to determine student eligibility. The Oregon School Meal Benefit (OSMB) system was developed to centralize statewide P-EBT eligibility and automate benefit issuance. OSMB is accessible by the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS), the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and the schools to update student and school information.

## General Information about P-EBT

P-EBT for the 2020-2021 school year has expanded to provide food benefits to more children compared to the P-EBT benefits that were issued in June 2020.

The P-EBT benefit households receive is based on the learning model and type of meal service utilized in each month of the school year. Students enrolled at schools that participate in the [National School Lunch Program](#) (NSLP) may be eligible if the student was eligible for free or reduced meals normally provided on-site or attend a school where free and reduced meals are provided to all students regardless of income.

P-EBT benefits are now available for children age 6 years and younger that received SNAP from October 2020 through May 2021. The amount of benefit is based on when the household became eligible and the benefit level is determined by schools in their county.

- SNAP children that are enrolled in school will receive P-EBT based on the level determined by the school.
- SNAP children aged 0-5 years will automatically receive P-EBT on the same card as their SNAP household.
- SNAP households with 6-year-olds, not yet enrolled in school, must verify enrollment at a childcare setting before P-EBT benefits may be issued. Communications will be going out to these families explaining verification options and ways to submit. Verifications are not being accepted at this time and additional information will follow in the late June transmittal.

Benefits are not transferrable and cannot be gifted or donated. Families can change student's P-EBT opt-in/opt-out status at any time. Families can opt-out through their schools or by email to ODHS at [ebt.schoolmeals@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:ebt.schoolmeals@dhsosha.state.or.us) .

***Important:*** *Students attending a non-participating NSLP school, including children who are homeschooled or attend an online charter school are not eligible for P-EBT.*

### Benefit Levels for School Year 2020/2021:

Benefits are determined at the school level and are based on the learning model utilized by most of the enrolled students, as well as, the type of meal service offered. Benefit levels may not be adjusted based on individual student schedules.

A full benefit amount of \$136 will be issued each month in which most students attended remote learning or attended a school that did not provide NSLP meal service as a part of the instructional day for students attending on-site.

A partial benefit amount of \$75 will be issued each month in which most students in a school attended a hybrid learning model.

P-EBT benefit amounts for children 6 and younger receiving SNAP are based on the highest benefit amount for any school in the county where the child resides.

***Important:*** *P-EBT benefits will only be corrected if the school reports a correction to the learning model or meal service from what was previously reported and results in an increase in the P-EBT amount for all students. All students within a school will receive the same benefit level regardless of how the individual student is attending.*

P-EBT benefits are determined differently based on the program year and approved state plan.

### **Info about September 2020 P-EBT Benefit Corrections**

Eligible students that previously received a September benefit of \$100 or less will receive a supplement of \$36 due to the 15% P-EBT benefit increase for the 2020-2021 school year.

A full P-EBT benefit of \$136 will be issued for those eligible students that did not receive a September P-EBT benefit.

***Important:*** *The expanded eligibility for children in the 2020/2021 school year does not include a September 2020 P-EBT benefit.*

### **P-EBT Issuance Timeline**

P-EBT benefits will be issued back to the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year from October 1, 2020. or the month the school or student became eligible.

Tentative P-EBT Benefit Issuance Timeline	
Benefit Months	Date of Notice and Issuance
October	No later than July 30 <sup>th</sup>
November	
December	
January	No later than August 30 <sup>th</sup>
February	
March	

Tentative P-EBT Benefit Issuance Timeline (Con't)	
Benefit Months	Date of Notice and Issuance
April	No later than September 30 <sup>th</sup>
May	
September Supplement	No later than September 30 <sup>th</sup>

P-EBT benefits will be issued based on the last digit of the P-EBT case number staggered over the last nine days of each month.

**There is no application for P-EBT**

Families and guardians with school aged children eligible for free or reduced-price meals should make sure their school has their most current mailing address on file and are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

Families can apply for free or reduced-price meals [online](#) through Oregon Department of Education or contact their school for more information.

Children that are newly eligible for free and reduced-price meals will receive P-EBT benefits for the full 2020-2021 school year.

**Training/communication plan:**

Press release distributed on 05/10/21

Targeted communications planned for Child Welfare and school districts

Further guidance anticipated in late June with additional resources and guidance on directing inquires to the OSMB Team.

Find up-to-date information and frequently asked questions at: [PEBT.oregon.gov](http://PEBT.oregon.gov)

**Local/branch action required:** Local branch action is not required.

**Central office action required:** N/A

**Field/stakeholder review:**  Yes  No

**If yes, reviewed by:**

**Filing instructions:**

*If you have any questions about this policy, contact:*

Contact(s): ODHS Oregon School Meal Benefits Team	
Phone: 503-945-6481	Fax:
Email: <a href="mailto:EBT.schoolmeals@dhsosha.state.or.us">EBT.schoolmeals@dhsosha.state.or.us</a>	