## Communication with the School Districts:

OPI and HCSD are excited to announce that P-EBT benefits have again been approved for the student’s in the great state of Montana. While this is an optional program, it is very beneficial to families that have not had the opportunity to receive meals from the school during this school year due to the COIVD 19 Pandemic.

The requirements for this round of P-EBT are different than last year. This year we are only able to provide P-EBT benefits to students who are attending school remotely and that are eligible for free/reduced meals. If they were eligible in 2019-2020, we can use that data or if they are newly eligible for the 2020-2021 school year, they are eligible as well. There are two types of remote school attendance, Hybrid and Remote. The hybrid student model reflects those students that do some in person school and some remote school in a week. Any child that is absent from school for 10 days due to illness is also eligible under this model to receive benefits for the month. The Remote student model reflects those students that are attending school 100% of the time remote. We will be collecting this data monthly for student attendance. A spreadsheet has been created to help with the gathering of the data. The third option that is listed is In Person. This option will be used to report when a student has gone back to In Person learning and they will not be eligible for benefits for those months.

Just like the last time we will need to have the Name and Address of the parent or legal guardian to send the P-EBT card to. We want to make sure that the cards are sent to the parent/legal guardian that is the main contact for the child. Each child must be entered separately on the spreadsheet. Please ensure that all the needed information is included on each line.

We also need to know of any changes to your hybrid approach as of February 1, 2021. Did you reduce your remotes days? If so to how many days a week? For March 2021 benefits we will be re-evaluating the Hybrid amount.

Notices will be sent to all the eligible families letting them know what the benefits are, how to activate the card, and what these can be spent on. These notices will be sent to families on the same day that we issue benefits. Our goal date for the first issuance is May 17, 2021. All eligible families will be receiving a NEW PEBT card for this round. These cards will be refilled with every issuance the household is eligible for.

If your school district wishes to opt out of this program please send an email to the [hhshcsdpebt@mt.gov](mailto:hhshcsdpebt@mt.gov) with that information including the school name and that you are opting out. Please provide a contact person in case a parent wants to opt in so we can verify the eligibility criteria.

Completed spreadsheets are sent to: <https://transfer.mt.gov/upload?type=HHSHCSDPEBT>

Any questions can be sent to: [hhshcsdpebt@mt.gov](mailto:hhshcsdpebt@mt.gov)

# Deadlines:

First Spreadsheet from all schools participating due: April 30, 2021.

Any spreadsheet received after April 30, 2021 will be issued in June with the final issuance.

New hybrid school schedules of March 1, 2021 due to HCSD May 5, 2021.

Last spreadsheet from schools due on May 28, 2021.