



Summer EBT – Questions & Answers

1. What state agency(ies) are responsible for administering the Summer-EBT (S-EBT) program?

DPHHS and OPI will share responsibilities for implementing Summer EBT. OPI will create and manage the application process, validate eligibility, and handle client communications. DPHHS will issue the EBT cards, manage card usage, investigate client fraud complaints, and oversee budget and program reporting to FNS.

2. What children are eligible to participate?

There are 3 groups of children in Montana who are eligible to participate.

- Students at non-Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) schools who have been approved as eligible for free or reduced-price school meals.
- Students attending a CEP school and are directly certified or have been approved via a free or reduced-price meal application.
- Children who are of compulsory age (7-15 years old) and participate in eligible programs.

3. Do all children in CEP schools automatically qualify for S-EBT?

No, all children must be determined eligible individually via direct certification or income application.

4. What students will qualify automatically?

Children who are directly certified as receiving SNAP, TANF, FDPIR, or Medicaid benefits; or are directly certified as having foster, migrant, or homeless/runaway status.

5. What is direct certification?

Direct certification is a process conducted by states and schools to certify eligible children for free meals without the need for household applications.

6. How can students qualify who are not directly certified?

Students that are not already directly certified may apply via a free or reduced-price meal application. Families must meet the federal income eligibility guidelines to qualify based on household size and income.

7. My child receives free meals at school based on a submitted application. Do I need to apply to receive Summer-EBT benefits?

No, the application for school meals eligibility will be used to distribute Summer-EBT benefits if this information is provided to the state agency for benefit issuance.



8. When will I receive benefits and how much will I receive?

Each eligible child will receive \$120 total for the summer on a DPHHS-issued Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card. For this first year of the program, benefit issuance schedules have yet to be determined. Updates will be made as information is available.

9. What other resources are available for meals over the summer?

The Summer Food Service Program may be offering free meals over the summer for kids at a site near you. To find the nearest site to your location, please visit <https://www.fns.usda.gov/meals4kids> or text 'Summer Meals' to 914-342-7744.

10. How can S-EBT benefits be used?

S-EBT benefits can be spent at any SNAP-approved retail store to purchase any SNAP-eligible foods.

11. Who can I contact with questions?

Questions can be emailed to s-ebt@mt.gov; or call 406.444.0044.

12. How can I opt out if I don't want to receive Summer-EBT benefits?

Families can opt out by calling 406.444.0044 or emailing s-ebt@mt.gov.

13. Is Summer-EBT the same as Pandemic-EBT?

No, S-EBT and P-EBT are different programs. P-EBT was offered during the Covid-19 pandemic. S-EBT is a permanent federal program.

14. Will applications for Summer-EBT be subject to verification?

Schools will follow their standard verification process, including verification for cause.

15. What is the timeframe for processing applications?

Applications for S-EBT must be processed within 15 days.

16. What is the timeframe for collecting applications?

Applications can be submitted and approved at any time.

17. How will schools process applications from FRAPP and upload F/R lists during the DCA end-of-year shutdown?

The end of year shutdown is near the end of June and into the first or second week of July. During that time, you will not be able to upload lists or process FRAPP applications. When DCA comes back up, you can upload your F/R list for the next Summer-EBT benefit issuance. To



process applications that were submitted June 30th or earlier, you will need to change the year on the dashboard to bring up the prior program year and process those FRAPPS. Then you need to change the program year to the current July 1 program year and process those FRAPPS. All eligible students will be picked up in the next S-EBT benefit issuance.

18. What should families do if they received a duplicate benefit, or received benefits in error?

Families must not use any benefits received in error.

19. I have a question, which includes Personally Identifiable Information (sensitive) information about my child. How should I relay this information?

Questions may be received either by email or by phone. Any PII (personally identifiable information) should not be sent via unsecured methods; email is considered unsecured. Please call the hotline (406.444.0044), or relay *only* the unique identifiers that are not sensitive (State ID or FRAPP ID). Questions general in nature that do not contain PII are encouraged.

20. Are S-EBT benefits included with other reportable income sources when applying for free/reduced and/or S-EBT benefits?

No, S-EBT benefits are not included when reporting income for eligibility determinations.



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To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

2. fax:

(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

3. email:

program.intake@usda.gov.