



PANDEMIC ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER (P-EBT) FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Round Three: Benefits for October 2020-May/June 2021

Updated: 04.14.21



STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

1. **Are all students eligible for P-EBT?**

No, only students that qualify for free or reduced-price meals through a household application or direct certification are eligible P-EBT benefits. If 2020-21 eligibility data is not available, districts can use data from the 2019-20 school year.

2. **All students in our district are currently receiving free meals through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). Are our eligible students still able to receive P-EBT benefits?**

Yes. Students that qualify for free or reduced-price meals can receive meals through SFSP and P-EBT benefits in the same month.

3. **Can students whose families have refused free and reduced-price meal benefits (i.e. have chosen to pay for their child's meals) be issued P-EBT funds?**

No, these students are not eligible for P-EBT funds. Families must have accepted free or reduced price meal benefits for their student to qualify for P-EBT.

4. **Many parents did not fill out a free or reduced price meals household application for 2020-21. Can we use student data from 2019-20 to determine P-EBT eligibility?**

If a district does not have a school meal application on file for a family for school year 2020-21, but have an application for school year 2019-20, the 2019-20 application may be used for P-EBT eligibility.

Note: Families should be encouraged to submit school meal applications for the 2020-21 school year. These applications may be used for summer P-EBT benefits. If a family submits an application this month and is determined eligible for free or reduced-price meals, they could receive P-EBT benefits for March 2021.

5. **Do we need to be mindful of the month/date a student was approved for free or reduced meals during the 2020-21 school year to qualify for P-EBT benefits?**

Yes. Students are only eligible to receive P-EBT benefits for the month(s) they qualified for free or reduced-price meals at your district.

6. **Can Preschool students receive P-EBT benefits?**

Preschool students are eligible for P-EBT benefits if they are enrolled in the school and, in a traditional year, would have received meals through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). *These students, like all other school-aged children, must qualify for free or reduced-price meals through a household application or direct certification.*

7. Can homeschool students receive P-EBT benefits?

Homeschool students are not eligible for P-EBT benefits. Homeschool students are not enrolled in a Nebraska school district and not eligible to receive free or reduced price meals.

8. A student who would qualify for P-EBT benefits has moved out of the district and no longer is enrolled at our school; do I need to submit this student to the NDE Portal?

In cases where students have moved out of your district, these students' data should be included in your data set for the months that they were enrolled in your school district. This would include students who have become foster students, transferred to a residential care facility or have simply moved. Please submit the most recent address you have on file for the family.

CLASSROOM LEARNING MODE & LAUNCH NEBRASKA

9. Our district started the year in the hybrid/split learning mode but switched to in-school learning in second semester. How do I document this change in Launch Nebraska?

Classroom learning mode status updates are completed on the Launch Nebraska webpage. The [District Status Update Instructions](#) outlines how to update your district's classroom learning modes.

10. Most of the students in our district were in-school, but some chose to be remote. What do I put in Launch Nebraska?

The district wide learning status in this example would be in-school and the district would indicate in Launch Nebraska that they offered a remote learning option. Districts that are operating with 100% of their students in the building (excluding students who have opted to be fully remote or are quarantined) are listed as *in-school*. Districts that have 100% of students remote learning 100% of the time are listed as *remote*. Districts that are operating under a hybrid delivery model are listed as *split*.

11. Our district has been in-school for all the 2020-21 school year. Do any of our students qualify for P-EBT benefits?

Eligible students could be issued P-EBT benefits if they fit into one of the two special case categories: students who have opted for remote learning OR students who have been quarantined for a minimum of five consecutive days at any point from October 2020 - May/June 2021.

12. An eligible student at our district (which is fully in-school) switched from remote to in-school learning. Does the student still qualify for P-EBT benefits?

Eligible students qualify for P-EBT benefits based on their classroom learning mode for the majority of the month. P-EBT benefits could be issued to the eligible student for all months of full remote learning status. During the switch month, if the student was enrolled as a remote learner for 10 days and an in-school students for 8 days, they would qualify for PEBT benefits that month. However, if the student was a remote learner for 8 days and in-school for 10 days, the student would not qualify for PEBT benefits that month.

13. How do I report the student from the scenario posed in question 10?

A student should be reported based on the greatest number of school days spent in either the remote or split/hybrid environment by placing a “Y” in the appropriate column.

14. My school’s learning status has been in-school for the entire 2020-21 school year. Do I need to complete Launch Nebraska?

A single entry into Launch Nebraska would need to be completed indicating that your school district has been in-school with the effective date being the first day of the 2020-21 school year. If there has been no change to the learning status, no further action is needed. Districts are strongly encouraged to check and make sure that the learning status listed in [Launch Nebraska](#) is accurate.

15. In Launch Nebraska, our classroom learning mode was incorrect back in August. How can I correct our classroom learning mode?

If your district needs to correct a status in [Launch Nebraska](#) or has a question regarding the site, please complete this [Launch Nebraska contact form](#). Please use the effective date field in Launch Nebraska to indicate the first day of the classroom learning mode selected.

A set of instructions for updating the Launch Nebraska Status Website has been created for Launch Nebraska. It can be found [here](#).

P-EBT DATA PORTAL

16. Can multiple months be uploaded at the same time into the portal?

Yes. Multiple months of eligible student data can be uploaded into the portal at the same time.

17. I submitted four months of data- will all benefits be issued at the same time?

Benefits will be issued as described in the P-EBT Issuance Schedule. A copy of the P-EBT Issuance Schedule can be found in the [P-EBT Toolkit](#). If districts miss a deadline, their student data will be picked up the following month and P-EBT benefits issued.

18. Some students have two primary addresses, two primary guardians, etc. How do I decide which line of student data to keep?

NDE encourages districts to pick the most accurate data for each student and delete the duplicate. If a school submits duplicate student data, NDE will randomly pick one to submit to DHHS.

SPECIAL CASES (REMOTE STUDENTS)

19. My school has offered meals for remote learners since the beginning of the 2020-21 school year. Do eligible students who opted into remote learning still qualify for P-EBT?

Yes. Eligible students can be issued benefits even if meals were provided by the school.

20. **We have reported in-person learning in Launch Nebraska but have students remote learning due to medical reasons. Will those remote learners qualify for P-EBT benefits?**
Yes. Eligible students would be issued benefits as special case remote learners. Please enter a “Y” in the remote learner column (column 16) on the Portal Upload template.

SPECIAL CASES (QUARANTINE)

21. **Our entire school/district was closed (or learning remotely) for cleaning for five consecutive days in December. Can eligible students get P-EBT benefits for December?**
Yes, the students would be eligible for the split/hybrid P-EBT benefit amount (\$62) for the month. The unplanned closure of the entire school that was not on the school calendar meets the requirement (minimum five consecutive days) for the quarantine special case. All eligible students would be identified as quarantine on the P-EBT template by entering a “Y” in the quarantined student column (column 17).
22. **If students were quarantined before the month of October, are they eligible to receive P-EBT benefits?**
No. Only students quarantined for a minimum of five consecutive days between October 2020 - May/June 2021 are eligible for Round Three benefits.
23. **My student information system doesn't which students were quarantined. How can I get data on those students?**
Each district is encouraged to make their best effort to collect data on students eligible to receive P-EBT benefits. The use of family surveys, data from local health departments, and school calendars for classroom/grade/school-wide quarantines can be helpful tools in providing data on quarantined students.
24. **If a student is quarantined from 09/21/2020 through 10/02/2020, would you still include that student in the October upload since they only missed 2 days in October?**
The student would not be eligible for PEBT benefits, as the majority of the quarantine took place outside of the Round Three distribution period (October 2020 - May/June 2021).
25. **If an eligible student was quarantined for five days that spanned two different months, (November 30th – December 4th), do they qualify for P-EBT benefits?**
An eligible student who was quarantined for at least five days does qualify for the quarantined P-EBT benefits. You would report this student as special case quarantined on the month that most of the days were missed. For the example above, the student would be reported on the December data set.
26. **If an eligible student was quarantined five days in November 2020 and six days in December 2020, what month would the district report the student?**
This student would be reported as a quarantine student in both November and December and would receive the split/hybrid amount (\$62) for both months.

27. Can a student qualify as a special case quarantine student for multiple months?
Yes, P-EBT benefits can be issued for each month the minimum five-day quarantine occurred. If eligible students experienced multiple quarantines during different months, they can receive P-EBT benefits for more than one month as a special case.

28. Can school holidays be counted as a day of quarantine?
No. School holidays, weekends, and other planned non-attendance days that are part of the regular district calendar *do not count* toward the minimum quarantine. School-wide closure days related to COVID-19 or weather *do count* toward the minimum quarantine including:

- Snow/Cold Days
- School closures due to facility cleaning, staffing shortages, precautionary measures, etc.

29. Do Districts need to report the number of days an eligible student was quarantined?
Districts do not need to indicate the number of days of quarantine in the portal upload. As long as the eligible student was quarantined for the minimum of five consecutive days, they will qualify for P-EBT benefits.

BENEFIT DISTRIBUTION

30. If a student lives in two different households, where will their P-EBT card be delivered?
Benefits will be distributed via P-EBT (non-SNAP families) or EBT (for SNAP families) card to the primary guardian/primary address on file with the school district. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure the primary guardian and address on file with the school is accurate.

31. An eligible student qualified for P-EBT benefits but has since transferred out of the district. Should they still be included in the data upload?
Yes. All eligible students who qualified for benefits in the selected month should be included in the data upload. NDE and DHHS will work to ensure benefits are issued to a correct address for eligible students that have transferred during the school year.

32. A family's P-EBT card has not yet arrived. Who should they contact?
The family should reach out to DHHS directly at 800-383-4278, 402-471-9043, or DHHS.NebraskaPEBT@nebraska.gov.

COMMUNICATION AND AVAILABLE RESOURCES

33. Should Districts just contact those families that would be eligible for the P-EBT benefits?
Each LEA can determine which households they communicate with and how they share information about Round Three P-EBT. Communication templates are available in the P-EBT Toolkit on the Nutrition Services website.

34. **Are there form letters/sample communication available for Districts to use to inform parents about P-EBT Round Three?**
Yes. NDE will be providing a communication toolkit to LEAs in the P-EBT section on the [Nutrition Services Homepage](#).
35. **NDE offered a webinar on P-EBT Round Three for school districts. Was it recorded?**
Yes, the Round Three P-EBT webinar was recorded and is available along with a PDF of the slides on the [Nutrition Services Homepage](#).