



# NC Pandemic Electronic Benefits (P-EBT) Information for the 2020-2021 School Year

Updated 03/10/2021



## Who Will Get P-EBT Benefits?

### INCLUDED

A child must meet **BOTH** of the following **student circumstance** to be eligible for benefits:

1. Be enrolled in a school (Kindergarten through 12th grade) that participates in the National School Lunch Program; AND
2. Be eligible for free or reduced-price meals at school.

**Student eligibility** is determined by **one** of the following:

1. Student was eligible for free or reduced-price meals at schools based on the approval of a household application; applications are approved by the school district in which the student is enrolled; or
2. Have categorical eligibility (homeless, migrant, foster) etc.; or
3. Have been Directly Certified for free meals for the current school year (2020-2021) via receiving Food and Nutrition Services benefits prior to the P-EBT benefit administration date; or
4. Attends a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school for the current school year (2020-2021).

**AND** The student must meet **BOTH** of the following **learning circumstances**:

1. The student's school was closed or has been operating with reduced attendance for at least 5 consecutive days during the 2020 to 2021 school year, **AND**
2. The student is learning in a "remote learning mode" (all virtual instruction) or in a "hybrid learning mode" (combination of virtual and in-person instruction) during the month.

### NOT INCLUDED

- Students enrolled in schools NOT participating in the National School Lunch Program.
- Students enrolled in schools not meeting the criteria of closure or reduced attendance 5 or more consecutive days in the 2020 to 2021 school year.
- Students who have graduated, dropped out of school, transferred to a school not participating in the National School Lunch Program etc.
- Students who did not receive P-EBT benefits last school year, and who do not automatically qualify for free or reduced-price meals for the current school year through participation in designated public assistance programs.
- Students who are attending school in person at a brick-and-mortar building 100% of the month.

## When Will P-EBT Benefits be Issued?

### August to December 2020

These benefits will be issued in February for those who already have an FNS EBT / P-EBT card. Those who do not have a card and are eligible during these months should anticipate receiving their cards by the end of March. Benefits will be distributed over several days.

### January to July 2021

North Carolina intends to provide ongoing retroactive benefits, beginning in March, that are based on eligibility for the prior month as long as the child remains eligible.

## How Much Will I Receive in Benefits?

- The learning mode and benefit amounts are determined as follows:
  - **Hybrid learning mode:** Students in virtual instruction less than 100% of instructional days in a month and at least 1 day of virtual instruction in a month will receive the hybrid benefit amount. The hybrid benefit amount is determined using the average number of days North Carolina schools using a hybrid schedule conducted virtual instruction for that month.
  - **Remote learning mode:** Students in virtual instruction 100% of the instructional days in a month will receive a benefit of \$115.94 for that month.
- The monthly averages and amounts could change each month and will be reported on the P-EBT website.
- The daily rate of \$5.86 has been increased to \$6.82.

## Activate a New Card OR Order a New Card

Just do one of these:

1. Visit [www.ebtedge.com](http://www.ebtedge.com). Click on More Information under EBT Cardholder. You will be prompted to login and/or register your account
2. Download and use the EBT Edge mobile app (can be downloaded on Google Play or Apple Store).
3. Contact the North Carolina EBT Call Center IVR at 1-888-622-7328 and follow the prompts.

To activate a card and set a PIN, enter the date of birth of the youngest school age child in your household. Enter the date of birth using two digits for the month, two digits for the day, and four digits for the year. For example, if the date of birth is June 1, 2008, you would enter 06012008.

## Additional Questions?

- If you have general questions about your P-EBT card you can visit North Carolina's P-EBT website at [www.ncdhhs.gov/pebt](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/pebt) or call the North Carolina EBT Call Center at 1-866-719-0141. If you are immediately disconnected when you call, it means there are too many people waiting to speak to a representative and you should call back at a later time.