



## Homeschool and Virtual Students Parent/Guardian Frequently Asked Questions 2022-2023 School Year

### What is P-EBT

#### 1. What is Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT)?

- P-EBT provides supplemental food assistance benefits to students who have temporarily lost access to free or reduced-price school meals due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal of the program is to make sure no qualified student goes hungry by missing out on school meals.

### Eligibility

#### 1. Does my student qualify for Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT)?

- Homeschool and virtual students may qualify for P-EBT benefits if they meet all the following criteria.
  - **Homeschool:**
    - i. Previously attended a National School Lunch Program participating school **and**
    - ii. Disenrolled due to COVID concerns on or after Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 **and**
    - iii. Home-school registered with Michigan Department of Education **and**
    - iv. Complete the P-EBT Application for Home Schooled and Virtual Academy Students and be approved.
  - **Fully Virtual Academy:**
    - i. Previously attended a National School Lunch Program participating school **and**
    - ii. Disenrolled due to COVID concerns on or after Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 **and**
    - iii. Complete the P-EBT Application for Home Schooled and Virtual Academy Students and be approved.
- Parent/Guardian of students enrolled in non-National School Lunch Program participating fully virtual institutions or homeschooling who were not school aged on 1/27/2020, will be allowed to self-attest on the application that attendance in a non-National School Lunch Program participating fully virtual institutions or homeschooling since education began is due to COVID concerns.

- #### 2. P-EBT Application for Home Schooled and Virtual Academy Students is available at [www.michigan.gov/PEBT](http://www.michigan.gov/PEBT)

- Email completed form to [MDHHS-PEBT@michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-PEBT@michigan.gov) **OR**
  - Mail completed form to: MDHHS/SPO PO Box 30800, SUITE 1405 Lansing MI 48909
  - P-EBT Application for Home Schooled and Virtual Academy Students **must be received by June 30, 2023 to be processed**
- 3. My student gets free lunch right now, do they qualify for P-EBT?**
- Your student may qualify for P-EBT, however if they are receiving free or reduced meals from a school, you would need to fill out a reconsideration form, not the P-EBT Application for Home Schooled and Virtual Students
    - The reconsideration form is available at [www.michigan.gov/PEBT](http://www.michigan.gov/PEBT)
    - Email completed form to [MDHHS-PEBT@michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-PEBT@michigan.gov) **OR**
    - Mail completed form to: MDHHS/SPO PO Box 30800, SUITE 1405 Lansing MI 48909
    - Reconsideration forms **must be received by June 30, 2023 to be processed**
- 4. Do I need to apply for P-EBT?**
- Yes, Fully Virtual and Homeschooled students will need to complete the P-EBT Application for Home Schooled and Virtual Academy Students.
    - P-EBT Application for Home Schooled and Virtual Academy Students is available at [www.michigan.gov/PEBT](http://www.michigan.gov/PEBT)
    - Email completed form to [MDHHS-PEBT@michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-PEBT@michigan.gov) **OR**
    - Mail completed form to: MDHHS/SPO PO Box 30800, SUITE 1405 Lansing MI 48909
    - P-EBT applications **must be received by June 30, 2023 to be processed**
- 5. Do I need to reapply each month?**
- No, once approved you will not need to reapply
- 6. When will my student receive P-EBT benefits?**
- We anticipate the first benefit issuance cycle to begin in May.

## P-EBT Application for Home Schooled and Virtual Academy Students

- 1. Where do I find the application?**
  - P-EBT Application for Home Schooled and Virtual Academy Students is available at [www.michigan.gov/PEBT](http://www.michigan.gov/PEBT)
- 2. Do I need to complete the application every month?**
  - No, you only need to fill out the application one time for the school year
- 3. Is there a deadline to send in the application?**
  - Applications must be received by June 30, 2023 to be processed
- 4. Do I need a different application for each student?**
  - No, you can list all students living in the home on one application
- 5. Who should I list on the application?**
  - List everyone who lives in your home. Include all children and adults that share in expenses and/or meals.
- 6. I have to include proof of income, what can I use as proof?**

Determining Household Reportable Income	
Category	Description
<b>Earnings from work</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wages, salaries, tips, commissions, and cash bonuses;</li> <li>• Net income from self-owned business, including farms;</li> <li>• Strike benefits, unemployment compensation, and worker's compensation; and</li> <li>• Military basic pay and cash bonuses and allowances for off-base housing, food, and clothing (excluding combat pay, Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance, and privatized housing allowances; for more information, see <i>Income Exclusions</i>).</li> </ul>
<b>Public assistance, alimony, pensions and child support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unemployment benefits;</li> <li>• Worker's compensation;</li> <li>• Supplemental Security Income (SSI);</li> <li>• Regular cash assistance from State or local governments;</li> <li>• Alimony payments;</li> <li>• Child support payments;</li> <li>• Veteran's benefits;</li> <li>• Pensions;</li> <li>• Retirement Social Security (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits);</li> <li>• Private pensions or disability benefits; and</li> <li>• Adoption assistance payments.</li> </ul>
<b>Any other income regularly received</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Income from trusts or estates;</li> <li>• Annuities;</li> <li>• Investment income;</li> <li>• Earned interest;</li> <li>• Net rental income;</li> <li>• Regular cash payments from outside household;</li> <li>• Cash withdrawn from savings; and</li> <li>• Any other money regularly available to pay for children's meals.</li> </ul>

**7. Where do I send it when once it is completed?**

- Email completed form to [MDHHS-PEBT@michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-PEBT@michigan.gov) OR
- Mail completed form to: MDHHS/SPO PO Box 30800, SUITE 1405 Lansing MI 48909
- P-EBT applications **must be received by June 30, 2023 to be processed**

## Benefits and Payment Info

**1. How will I receive P-EBT benefits?**

- Eligible students will receive a new P-EBT card in the mail.

**2. What months does the P-EBT program cover?**

- September 2022 through May 11, 2023

### 3. When will my card be loaded?

- Benefits are expected to begin being issued in May
- The following chart is the anticipated issuance schedule and may be subject to change

ATTENDANCE MONTHS	ISSUANCE MONTH
September 2022 - December 2022	May
January 2023 – February 2023	May
March 2023 - May 11 2023	June

### 4. How can I check my balance or activity?

- Call the EBT customer service number (888) 678-8914
- Or navigate to this link: [www.ebtedge.com](http://www.ebtedge.com)

### 5. How long do I have to use my P-EBT benefits?

- Per USDA FNS federal guidelines (7 CFR 272.2), if you do not use any of your FAP benefits for nine months (274 days), they will be expunged, or removed from your account. This means the FAP benefits will no longer be available to spend and will be removed from your EBT card permanently.
- Once expunged, benefits cannot be redeposited or reissued.

## Card Questions

### 1. Will I receive a new P-EBT card if I previously had one?

- Yes, past P-EBT cards will not be re-used

### 2. How do I activate my P-EBT card?

- Call the number on the back of the card - (888) 678-8914
  - First choice is language
    - 1 for English
    - 2 for Spanish
    - 3 for Arabic
  - Second choice
    - Choose 1 for Food Stamps and Cash
  - Enter 16-digit card number from front of card
  - Enter the birthdate of the student whose name is on the card
  - Enter "0000" (four zeroes) for the last four numbers of the social security number when prompted.
  - Choose 4-digit Pin (any 4 numbers you choose) and enter
  - Enter your 4-digit Pin again to confirm, card is now active
- Or visit [www.ebtedge.com](http://www.ebtedge.com)
  - This option will also allow you to verify deposits, see transactions and check your balance quickly

- On the left-hand side of the webpage click “Cardholder Login”
- Next to “First time logging in” click “Register Here”
- Enter required Information
  - User ID – You choose - User ID must be between 4-35 characters in length and contain at least one alphabetical character
  - Password with Confirmation - The Password can be 6-8 characters and must contain at least one upper case alphabetical character, one lower case alphabetical character, and one number. Special characters such as @, #, and \$ can be used
  - First Name
  - Last Name
  - Email Address
  - Phone Number
  - Once the User ID and Password have been successfully created, the application will redirect the cardholder to setup challenge questions
  - Select and answer challenge questions from the dropdown menu
  - At this point you will be prompted to link your card to your account, click “Add Account” and follow prompts

**3. How do I use my P-EBT card? What can I buy? Where can I use my P-EBT Card?**

- The P-EBT card is used the same way as a traditional EBT card or “Bridge Card”
- Please visit <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/eligible-food-items> for more information

**4. I lost my card. How do I get a replacement?**

- Contact customer service toll-free at (888) 678-8914. They are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Your replacement card will be mailed within 3 to 5 business days
- You will not have to activate this replacement card
- The PIN you used on your old card will work with your new card
- Once you order a replacement card your old card will no longer work

## Address Help

**1. Can I have my card sent somewhere else?**

- No. When a card is mailed, it will be mailed to the address on the approved application

**2. Can cards be sent to PO Boxes?**

- Yes, if the PO Box is the listed address for the student

**3. I set up mail forwarding with the Post Office. Will I receive my P-EBT card?**

- No. The P-EBT card will NOT be forwarded
- You will need to contact P-EBT customer service (833) 905-0028, and they will work with you to have a new card issued

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) does not discriminate against any individual or group because of race, religion, age, national origin, color, height, weight, marital status, genetic information, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, political beliefs, or disability.