



New: Eligibility for Limited Group of Homeschooled and Virtual Students School Year 2022-2023

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that a new limited group of homeschooled and virtual students may be eligible to receive Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) benefits for the school year 2022-2023. To receive P-EBT benefits, homeschool and virtual school students must meet specific eligibility requirements:

1. Attended a school participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) at some point before the start of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, or the child enrolled in kindergarten as a virtual or homeschooled student in the school year 2020-2021 or later.

AND

2. Currently not attending an NSLP-participating school *due to concerns about COVID-19*.

AND

3. Would have been eligible for free or reduced-price meals* at their NSLP school if not for their virtual or homeschool status.

How can your school help this newly eligible group receive P-EBT benefits?

- Schools must share information with potentially eligible families in these newly identified eligible populations through various communication platforms, including but not limited to, school website, social media, and direct outreach.
- Schools will need to review, approve or decline Application for P-EBT Benefits for Homeschool and Virtual Students that families are required to complete to qualify for P-EBT benefits.
- Schools will need communicate with families if a student is determined not eligible to receive P-EBT benefits.
- Schools must create State Student IDs for those home-schooled or virtual learning students who do not have one.
- Schools and districts will be responsible for entering a child's information into the P-EBT Portal upon approval of their FRP status.

* An [Application for P-EBT Benefits for Homeschool and Virtual Students](#) will need to be submitted along with supporting income documentation to verify income eligibility.

What do families need to do to be eligible to receive P-EBT benefits?

Families will need to reach out to the school their child either attended in the past or the school they would have enrolled in if not for concerns related to COVID-19 and complete an Application for P-EBT Benefits for Homeschool and Virtual Students to learn if they qualify for P-EBT benefits.

The Application for P-EBT Benefits for Homeschool and Virtual Students requires families to provide specific documents that verify information including household size, children or dependents, and income level. Parents or legal guardians must attest the reason their child enrolled in homeschool or virtual school was due to concerns about COVID-19.

Once families complete the Application for P-EBT Benefits for Homeschool and Virtual Students, schools will review the application and determine if a student is eligible to receive P-EBT benefits. The school will reach out to the families notifying them whether a student is eligible to receive P-EBT benefits. Benefits for eligible students will be issued on a case-by-case basis based on applications received.

Please note that applying for this P-EBT benefits does not make a child eligible to receive free meals at school if they are currently enrolled as a virtual or homeschooled student.

Schools: Webinar training for information about the eligible populations and the P-EBT program for the 2022-23 school year are being planned. Please watch the P-EBT bulletin for announcements of dates and time. If you have questions about the P-EBT program or about the newly eligible homeschool or virtual students, please email questions to pebt.mde@state.mn.us.

Families: If you have questions about the P-EBT program or about the newly eligible homeschool or virtual students, please visit the [P-EBT webpage](https://mn.gov/dhs/p-ebt/) (mn.gov/dhs/p-ebt/) or call 651-431-4608 or 1-833-454-0153 or submit questions through the [P-EBT Help Form](#).