

Pandemic- Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for Parents/Guardians

May 5, 2020

What is the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer?

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020, has provided additional funding available to families whose children would receive free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the COVID-19 school closures.

Similar to summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (S-EBT), the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) will provide additional funding on a per student basis for families to spend on qualifying food purchases in their community. P-EBT funds go directly to eligible children to bring food into their household. This program helps alleviate food insecurity and increase local spending at the same time.

How does it work?

The Oregon Trail Card (EBT) system is used to provide funds to ALL eligible students. Existing Oregon Trail Card beneficiaries will have additional funds added to their cards. *Families who do not have a card already will receive one with a letter explaining the program.*

Households will receive benefits equivalent to one free lunch and one free breakfast for each eligible child – \$5.70 per normal school day for the months of March, April, May and June.

Benefits will be retroactive to March 16, 2020 for students who received free and reduced-price meals when schools closed. For newly eligible free or reduced-price meals or SNAP households, benefits will start at the beginning of the month they become eligible. Eligible families will receive the following for each child:

- \$69 for March
- \$126 in April
- \$120 in May
- \$69 in June

How do I know if my child is eligible to receive P-EBT?

Eligible households includes

- An eligible child or children, who if not for the closure of their school during a public health emergency designation and due to concerns about a COVID-19 outbreak, would receive free or

- reduced-price school meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, as amended, and
- The child's school or district will be (or has been) closed for at least 5 consecutive days during a public health emergency designation and due to concerns about a COVID-19 outbreak.

Do I need to apply for P-EBT?

No, Individuals do not need to apply for P-EBT. If your child is currently receiving free or reduced priced lunches at a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or are currently receiving Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP benefits) you will receive this benefit automatically. The Oregon Department of Education is partnering with local school districts to obtain student specific information.

What if my child currently attends a school that is participating in the NSLP but has not been determined as eligible for free or reduced price lunches?

Oregon families who have experienced income loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic and may have become eligible for free or reduced-price school meals can [apply online](#). Once the application has been submitted, please contact your child's school district nutrition service department for more information.

What if my child does not attend a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program?

- The funding for Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer is specific to participants for who if not for the closure of their school during a public health emergency designation and due to concerns about a COVID-19 outbreak, would receive free or reduced-price school meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, as amended, and
- The child's school or district will be (or has been) closed for at least 5 consecutive days during a public health emergency designation and due to concerns about a COVID-19 outbreak.

What if I believe my child qualifies for P-EBT benefits but I do not receive an Oregon Trail Card or funding on my existing card?

If you believe your child is an eligible child, ODE CNP encourages families to contact the Department of Human Services for more information.

As of May 5, 2020 ODE CNP is working in close partnership with the department of Human Services. Contact information will be added to this document as soon as it becomes available. In the interim, please visit the [Department of Human Services COVID-19 webpage](#).

What if I receive the P-EBT benefits and I do not want to accept them?

The program is optional and is supported through the Oregon Trail card system. This is an opt-in program, requiring activation of the Oregon Trail card. Families who do not wish to participate may destroy the cards. Any funds not used are returned to the state.