

A photograph of a female teacher with short dark hair and glasses, wearing a white t-shirt, sitting on the floor and reading a book to two young boys. The boys are also sitting on the floor, looking at the book. They are in a library or classroom setting with bookshelves in the background. The image is semi-transparent, allowing the text to be overlaid.

Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) Program

AGENDA

■ PANDEMIC EBT

- Overview
- 2020-2021 P-EBT Updates
- 2020-2021 P-EBT Summer Program
- Resources
- FAQs

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PANDEMIC EBT OVERVIEW

- Primary Citations
 - Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)
 - Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act
 - Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021
- Joint effort with Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
- Oversight provided by Food Nutrition Services (FNS)
- Purpose – to provide benefits to students who would have received food services when attending school in-person.

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2020-2021 P-EBT UPDATES

- Phase II
 - 2020-2021 School Year
 - State plan was approved on March 22, 2021
 - Campus must have been closed, provided reduced on-campus instruction, and/or had students attending virtually for five consecutive days to be eligible.
 - Students must have attended a campus that meets the eligibility and also be eligible for free/reduced lunches or attend a CEP/P2 campus.
 - Student Benefit Issuance
 - Students on SNAP received direct-issued benefits
 - For students not on SNAP, their parent/guardian needs to apply via an HHSC application.
 - HHSC is using PEIMS Fall data and new LEA survey to determine eligibility.
 - Benefit amount was based on virtual attendance percentage survey sent in April 2021.

2020-2021 P-EBT UPDATES

- Application deadline extended from August 13 to August 26, 2021.
- Request for Review process and documentation distributed.
- VAP Survey updates were processed on July 10 and available on July 12, 2021 (only impacted limited districts).

- HHS LEA Outreach for Request for Review Process
 - P-EBT Parent/Guardian Verification Form – verify if parent listed on form is the primary or secondary contact. Multiple parents are applying for benefits for the same student.
 - P-EBT Eligibility Verification Form – verify enrollment and eligibility for free/reduced price meals.
 - VAP Verification Form – verify student enrollment and virtual attendance.

- Do Not Process if:
 - Date of birth is after 8/1/2014 (all forms)
 - VAP Verification Form - Campus eligibility amount is \$1,200.32 (maximum amount allowable)

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2020-2021 P-EBT SUMMER UPDATES

- Phase III
 - 2020-2021 School Year (Summer)
 - State plan pending approval
 - Benefits distribution
 - Direct issuance to anyone approved for the 2020-2021 school year.
 - If students were approved for \$0 for SY 2020-2021, they will be eligible to receive the \$375 for the summer.
 - Any students approved for free/reduced price meals over the summer through 6/30/2021 will need to be reported to HHS via a file upload process in early fall.
 - Benefit Amount – approximately \$375 per student

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RESOURCES

- HHS P-EBT Website:

<https://www.hhs.texas.gov/services/health/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19-information-texans/pandemic-ebt-p-ebt-due-covid-19>

- P-EBT Flyer: <https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/p-ebt-flyer-english.pdf>

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2020-2021 P-EBT FAQs

- Our attorney has advised our district not to provide information without an MOU in place. How do we handle the forms?
 - The initial P-EBT legislation (HR 6201, Section 1101(e)) authorizes schools to disclose info to HHSC for purposes of administering P-EBT. This should cover the concern from the school districts.

2020-2021 P-EBT FAQs

- Why is our LEA receiving forms from HHS?
 - Both HHS and TEA compared the data submitted via the HHS P-EBT application against both PEIMS Fall and Summer data and were unable to find a match due to data discrepancies. May be due to incorrect SSN, S-number, name misspellings or incorrect date of birth.
 - The process must be initiated by the parent.

TEA

Questions

tsds

