

Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (Summer EBT) - Frequently Asked Questions Summer 2024

Q1: What is Summer EBT?

A1: Summer EBT is a new United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) program created for eligible families to receive money for select food items during the summer when school is not in session. Summer EBT benefits are available for eligible households based on their enrollment in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or School Breakfast Program (SBP) and eligibility for free or reduced-price meals.

Q2: Who is eligible for Summer EBT?

A2: School-age, income-eligible children may receive Summer EBT benefits. This includes:

- School-age children who are participating in the following public assistance programs:
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
 - Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
 - Medicaid with household income under 185% of the federal poverty level (FPL)
- School-age children who are eligible for free or reduced-priced meals based on the following criteria:
 - Participation in Head Start
 - Homeless
 - Foster Children
 - Runaway Status
- School-age children who have already been approved for free or reduced-price meals through filling out a school meals application.
- School-age children enrolled in a school participating in NSLP/SBP, are not already eligible, and determined income-eligible through a Summer EBT application.

Q3: Are homeschooled children eligible for Summer EBT benefits?

A3: School-aged homeschooled children receiving public assistance benefits listed above are eligible for Summer EBT benefits and will not need to complete a Summer EBT application. If homeschooled children are not receiving public assistance, they are not eligible for Summer EBT benefits.

Q4: What is the Summer EBT benefit amount?

A4: The benefit amount is \$40.00 per month per eligible child, for a total of \$120.00 per eligible child. This one-time payment of \$120 will be issued for each eligible child for the summer period of May 16, 2024, through August 31, 2024.

Q5: When will Summer EBT benefits be available?

A5: Summer EBT benefits will be available starting in May 2024 for the summer period of May 16, 2024, through August 31, 2024. Additional details regarding summer EBT benefits will be shared at a later date.

Summer EBT Issuances	Date Summer EBT Cards Mailed
First Issuance	May 28, 2024
Second Issuance	June 20, 2024
Third Issuance	July 19, 2024
Fourth Issuance	August 20, 2024
Fifth Issuance	September 10, 2024

*Issuance dates are subject to change. This document will be updated if changes occur.

Families will only receive one issuance for the summer period and will not receive multiple issuances. Issuance dates will be determined based on eligibility information received from the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE). Eligible families will receive a letter of approval.

Q6: How do I activate the Summer EBT card?

A6: To activate the Summer EBT card, please complete the following steps:

1. Call the number on the back of the card (877-247-6328).
2. When asked for the primary cardholder's date of birth, enter the 8-digit date of birth for the oldest child in the household. For example, if the child's date of birth is January 1, 1980, enter "01-01-1980."
3. The automated prompt will then ask for the primary cardholder's zip code. Enter the zip code of the address where the card was mailed.
4. The prompt will ask you to select a PIN.
5. Once the PIN is set, the card will be activated and ready to use.

Q7: How will families receive Summer EBT benefits?

A7: A Summer EBT card will be mailed to eligible families. The Summer EBT card will look similar to the SNAP EBT card but will indicate Summer EBT along the top of the card.

Important: Families must have their address registered with the post office to receive the Summer EBT card.



Q8: Is there an application process for Summer EBT benefits?

A8: Yes, but not for everyone. Households whose students have been approved for NSLP/SBP free or reduced-priced meals through their school and households whose students are receiving public assistance benefits such as SNAP, ADC, and Medicaid with household income less than 185% of the FPL do not need to apply. Households not already determined eligible through NSLP/SBP or public assistance benefits must complete a Summer EBT application. This includes households whose students attend a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school, as individual income determinations must be made. Applications will be available online and through each school district and will be accepted from June 1, 2024, through August 31, 2024.

Q9: Will Summer EBT benefits affect a family's ability to receive other benefits?

A9: No, it will not. Summer EBT benefits replace school meals for families eligible for free and reduced-price school meals through NSLP/SBP during the summer months. Summer EBT benefits will not count as income or resources for other public assistance programs.

Q10: How long do families have to use Summer EBT benefits?

A10: Families can use summer EBT benefits for 122 days, or four months. The 122-day count begins the day after the benefits are issued. If Summer EBT benefits are not used within 122 days, they will be returned to the USDA as required and not reissued.

Q11: Are Summer EBT benefits based solely on free and reduced-price meals through the schools, or will there be additional income guidelines?

A11: There are no additional income guidelines. Families must be income-eligible for the NSLP/SBP.

Q12: If the family did not receive Summer EBT benefits and they feel they were eligible, who can they contact?

A12: Families with questions about eligibility can contact their schools or may contact DHHS at 800-383-4278. Please remember that it can take up to 10 days to receive the Summer EBT cards after they are mailed. If a family has specific questions regarding their eligibility, they can email staff to review.

Please include the parent's first and last name, address, phone number, email address, children's first and last names and birthdates, school, school district, and summary of the issue. Send the request to NDE.SEBT@nebraska.gov or DHHS.SEBT@nebraska.gov.

Q13: What can families buy with Summer EBT benefits?

A13: Summer EBT benefits can buy food at grocery stores, online, and farmer's markets that accept SNAP EBT. Families can use their Summer EBT card like a debit card after it has been activated and a PIN established. To use the Summer EBT card:

- Select "EBT."
- Swipe the card.
- Enter your private PIN.

Q14: Can Summer EBT cards be sold for cash?

A14: Summer EBT benefits cannot be sold or traded. Selling Summer EBT benefits could cause households to be ineligible to receive benefits in the future through permanent disqualification or civil money penalties.