

# Montana Pandemic EBT

If your child was getting free or reduced-price school meals during the 2019-2020 school year, your family may be eligible for food benefits of \$330 per eligible child.

## What is Pandemic EBT (P-EBT)?

P-EBT provides nutrition benefits to families who lost access to free or reduced-price school meals during the 2019-2020 school year because schools were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Each eligible child will receive a one time payment of \$330.

## Is my family eligible?

Families with children ages 5 to 18, who were enrolled in free or reduced-price school meals as of March 18, 2020, are eligible for P-EBT.

## How do I get P-EBT benefits?

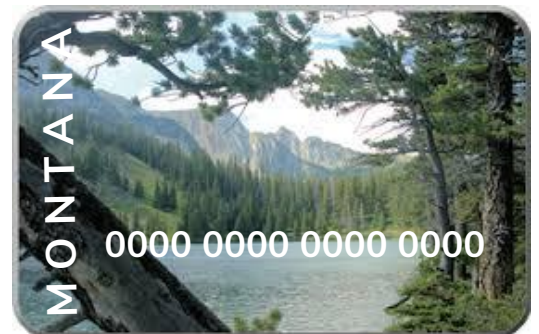
Montana DPHHS is automatically issuing benefits to most eligible families.

### **Do you already receive SNAP?**

Your P-EBT benefits will be loaded onto your Montana EBT card.

### **Don't have SNAP but enrolled in free or reduced-price meals as of March 18, 2020?**

Most eligible families will receive benefits automatically. Look out for a Montana EBT card in the mail. Remember to activate your card before use.



**If you do not receive benefits by August 31, 2020, visit [www.montanameals.org](http://www.montanameals.org) to complete a short online application. Applications must be received by DPHHS by September 21, 2020.**

## Will I get a card for each child?

No. One EBT card will be issued per family.

## How do I use my P-EBT benefits?

P-EBT works just like a debit card to buy groceries. You can buy most fresh, canned, frozen food items. P-EBT benefits are accepted anywhere SNAP benefits are accepted, including many farmers markets. You must activate your card prior to use. Do NOT throw out your card after you've used it (in the event additional benefits become available later).

## Do I have to spend P-EBT benefits right away?

No. P-EBT benefits are available until they are spent down. However, a 9 month period of inactivity will result in funds no longer being available.

## Can immigrant families get P-EBT?

Yes. P-EBT is available to any child who was getting free or reduced-price school meals as of March 18, 2020. It will NOT impact your citizenship or immigration status and NO social security number is required.

## My child gets free or reduced-price meals at school, but I did not receive a card or any benefits?

To qualify for P-EBT, your child must have been enrolled in free or reduced-price school meals as of March 18, 2020. If you think you're eligible and have not received benefits by August 31, 2020, visit [www.montanameals.org](http://www.montanameals.org), email [hhshcsdpebt@mt.gov](mailto:hhshcsdpebt@mt.gov), or call 1-888-706-1535.

## Can my children still get meals from schools if we have P-EBT benefits?

Yes, children can still get grab and go meals or other meals from schools and community locations.