



P-EBT 3.0 FAQs

What are P-EBT benefits?

P-EBT (also known as "Pandemic EBT") is a federal program that provides food benefits to families with eligible children who may have missed free or reduced-price meals at their school or childcare because of COVID-19. P-EBT 3.0 is the third version of the P-EBT program and provides benefits to eligible children for the 2021–2022 school year and summer 2022.

Who is eligible for P-EBT 3.0 benefits?

Young children are eligible if they meet both of these criteria:

- were under age 6 as of August 1, 2021;
- AND got CalFresh Food benefits at least once from August 2021 through August 2022.

School-aged children are eligible if, during the 2021–2022 school year, they:

- were eligible for free or reduced-price meals;
- AND were enrolled in a school participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP)/School Breakfast Program (SBP) or a Provision school;
- AND did not attend school in person or had five or more excused absences in any month due to COVID-19 (this includes students enrolled in Independent Study, i.e., virtual learning).

School-aged children who attended school *in person* during the 2021–2022 school year also may be eligible if, as of May 2022, they were eligible for free or reduced-price meals and enrolled in a school participating in the NSLP/SBP or a Provision school.

What is the history of the P-EBT program?

There have been three versions of the P-EBT program. P-EBT 1.0 provided food benefits to eligible school-aged children to make up for free or reduced-price meals missed during the 2019–2020 school year (March–June 2020). P-EBT 2.0 provided P-EBT benefits for the months August 2020 through August 2021 for both school-aged children and young children (under age 6). P-EBT 2.0 benefits were based on the majority learning model in the child's school or young child's county. To date, California has issued \$8.3 billion in P-EBT benefits to 5 million children statewide for the 2019–2020 and 2020–2021 school years.

How much will eligible families get in P-EBT 3.0 benefits?

Young children will get an average of \$45 per month for each month they received CalFresh Food benefits during the 2021–2022 school year. Actual monthly amounts may vary.

Benefit Month(s)	P-EBT Allotment
August 2021	\$ 39
September 2021	\$ 43
October 2021	\$ 52
November 2021	\$ 37

December 2021	\$37
January 2022	\$59
February 2022	\$44
March 2022	\$32
April 2022	\$43
May 2022	\$44
June – August 2022	\$391

School-aged children will get \$7.10 for each day they didn't attend school in person because of COVID-19 (either due to a virtual learning day or due to having five or more excused absences) during the 2021–2022 school year. Both groups of children will also get \$391 if they are eligible for summer 2022 P-EBT benefits.

Do families have to repay P-EBT benefits?

No. Families never have to pay back P-EBT benefits.

Will P-EBT 3.0 cards be reloaded?

Yes, P-EBT 3.0 cards will automatically be reloaded in November 2022 for young children and December 2022 for school-aged children to cover benefit months January–August 2022. **Do not throw away your P-EBT 3.0 card.**

How do families get P-EBT 3.0 benefits?

Families with eligible children don't need to do anything. They will automatically be mailed a new P-EBT 3.0 card with benefits already loaded. No application or opt-in is required.

When will P-EBT 3.0 cards be mailed?

Cards for children eligible for benefits in August 2021–December 2021 will be mailed starting in:	Cards for children eligible <i>only</i> for benefits in January–August 2022 will be mailed in:
October 2022 for young children	November 2022 for young children
November 2022 for school-aged children	December 2022 for school-aged children

All cards will be mailed in alphabetical order by the eligible child's first name. It may take a few months for all cards to arrive as we are mailing out 5 million cards statewide.

My family is eligible for P-EBT 3.0 benefits, but we didn't get our card. What should I do?

You may not need to do anything. There's a chance your card just hasn't been mailed yet. Double-check the timeline for mailing cards based on your eligible child's first name and age group. If you think too much time has passed, you can call the P-EBT Helpline at 1-877-328-9677 (M–F, 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.) to submit an appeal or request a card.

If you moved and think your card was sent to the wrong address by mistake, you can call the P-EBT Helpline at 1-877-328-9677 (M–F, 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.) to verify your information, update your address, and get a new card issued.

What should I do when the P-EBT 3.0 card arrives in the mail?

When the P-EBT 3.0 card arrives in the mail, you will need to create a PIN (instructions will be sent with the card). Then use your card just like a debit card at the same places that take CalFresh Food benefits:

- Pay by selecting "EBT" at checkout.
- Swipe the card.
- Enter the private PIN.

What can I buy with P-EBT 3.0 benefits?

Use P-EBT 3.0 cards to buy food in most grocery stores and many farmers markets where CalFresh Food benefits are accepted and online at participating retailers. Just like with CalFresh, P-EBT 3.0 benefits can't be used at restaurants or to buy foods that are served hot or already prepared (like takeout or food bars).

How long do I have to spend my P-EBT 3.0 benefits?

P-EBT 3.0 cards need to be used at least once a year to stay active. Cards expire one year from the date of the most recent purchase or—if no purchases are made—one year from the date the card was issued.

What if my family moved out of California during the 2021–2022 school year?

P-EBT benefits are provided to children living in California during the 2021–2022 school year. If a family moved and did not update their address with the CalFresh office or their school, they can request an address change by calling the P-EBT Helpline at 1-877-328-9677 (M–F, 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.) or by using the Live Chat feature at ca.p-ebt.org.

Do P-EBT 3.0 benefits affect a family's immigration status or make them a public charge?

No. Using P-EBT will not affect immigration or make you a public charge. The program does NOT report your information to immigration services.

Will receiving P-EBT benefits affect eligibility for other benefit programs?

No, P-EBT benefits do not count as taxable income and do not affect eligibility for any other benefit programs. Children may also continue to get "grab-n-go" meals or summer meals at childcare facilities, schools, or feeding sites offered by community locations, even if they are receiving P-EBT benefits.

What do I do if I lost my P-EBT card?

If you've lost your card, you can request a new one by calling the P-EBT Helpline at 1-877-328-9677 (M–F, 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.) or using the Live Chat feature at ca.p-ebt.org.

How can I learn more about P-EBT?

Visit ca.p-ebt.org for program information and ongoing updates.