



# 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](https://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](https://ca.p-ebt.org).

## **How can I learn more about P-EBT?**

Visit [ca.p-ebt.org](https://ca.p-ebt.org) for program information and ongoing updates.