



DATE

Dear School Districts:

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is partnering with the Department of Education (NDE) to provide Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) to families who have lost access to free or reduced-price school meals because of unanticipated school closures due to COVID-19.

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (H.R. 6201) provides states the option to provide food assistance in the event of school closures lasting five or more days to all children who would have otherwise received a free or reduced price meal at school. This includes all children at schools implementing the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP).

The Pandemic EBT provides funds for food equal to the value of the meals the child would have received at school. For children in households that already receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, the additional P-EBT benefits will be added to their existing EBT card. For children who do not already receive SNAP, DHHS will provide these households with EBT cards through an application process. Federal law H.R. 6201 authorized the information sharing necessary to implement P-EBT. The NDE has shared free and reduced student eligibility with DHHS. This database will be used to verify eligibility when families apply for P-EBT benefits.

To assist all eligible Nebraska children receive the Pandemic EBT benefits, all Nebraska sponsors of the National School Lunch Program are being asked to help DHHS and NDE in providing P-EBT information to eligible households.

Please notify households with children that are eligible for free and reduced price meal benefits information on how to apply for P-EBT benefits by sending the communication below. This may be copied into an email or mailed in a letter form.

Due to your household's eligibility for free or reduced price meals for SY2019-2020, your student(s) are eligible for a Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) benefit to equal the value of the meals the child(ren) would have received at school if school had not been closed due to COVID-19. P-EBT is a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) program designed to provide cash benefits on an EBT card to be used to purchase food. Those who qualify will receive an average of \$5.70 for each child, for each day that school was closed due to the pandemic. This could be up to \$281 per child. If your household already receives SNAP no further action is needed. This

benefit will automatically be added to your EBT card. Money will be placed on an EBT card and can be used at participating retailers and grocers.

Non-SNAP households must apply for the P-EBT benefit, go to [P-EBT Application](#). The application will be available starting June 22, 2020 through July 19, 2020. No applications will be accepted after July 19, 2020. If you have questions or need assistance completing the application please call 1-800-383-4278 or visit <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/COVID-19-Nebraska-Guidance-Documents.aspx>.

IMPORTANT: Please have your child's Student ID number (used to track school meals, online applications, payments, or tests) as this information is used to determine eligibility for benefits. In addition the application will ask for parent/guardian name, child(ren) name, date of births, name of school, mailing address, and contact information. After you have completed the application, you will receive a confirmation email. If there are questions with your application, you will be contacted for additional clarification. In order to receive an EBT card the household's address must be registered with the post office. If you need assistance with registering your address with the post office, please visit <https://moversguide.usps.com/mgo/disclaimer?execution=e3s2&flowId=icoa-main-flow&referral=USPS>.

Nebraska will continue to comply with civil rights requirements, to include providing equal access to individuals with disabilities and individuals who are limited English proficient.

Optional language to be included by the school district: If you are not sure of the student ID Number, please contact the school district's office at (xxx) xxx-xxxx.

The information in the email/letter must only be distributed by direct mailing to the households with children eligible for free or reduced priced school meals and cannot be posted on a public website or sent to all enrolled children.

If you have any questions, please contact the [Nebraska Department of Education](#) at nde.nsweb@nebraska.gov.

Thank you for your commitment to meeting the nutritional needs of children during this challenging time.

Below is the Spanish translation for the email or letter to families:

Debido a la elegibilidad de su hogar para comidas gratuitas o a precio reducido para Año Escolar 2019-2020, su(s) estudiante(s) son elegibles para un beneficio Pandemia EBT (P-EBT) para igualar el valor de las comidas que los niños habrían recibido en la escuela si la escuela no hubiera sido cerrada debido a COVID-19. P-EBT es un programa del Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos (USDA, por sus siglas en inglés), de Servicios de Alimentos y Nutrición (FNS, por sus siglas en inglés) diseñado para proporcionar beneficios en efectivo en una tarjeta EBT que se utilizará para comprar alimentos. Aquellos que califiquen recibirán un promedio de \$5.70 por cada niño, por

cada día que la escuela fue cerrada debido a la pandemia. Esto podría ser de hasta \$281 por niño. Si su hogar ya recibe SNAP, no se necesitan más medidas. Este beneficio se añadirá automáticamente a su tarjeta EBT. El dinero se colocará en una tarjeta EBT y se puede utilizar en los minoristas y tiendas de comestibles participantes.

Los hogares que no participant en el programa de SNAP deben solicitar el beneficio P-EBT, ir a la aplicación P-EBT. [P-EBT Application](#). La solicitud estará disponible desde el 22 de junio de 2020 hasta el 19 de julio de 2020. No se aceptarán solicitudes después del 19 de julio de 2020. Si tiene preguntas o necesita ayuda para completar la solicitud, llame al 1-800-383-4278 o visite <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/COVID-19-Nebraska-Guidance-Documents.aspx>.

IMPORTANTE: Por favor, tenga el número de identificación del estudiante de su hijo (utilizado para rastrear comidas escolares, solicitudes en línea, pagos o exámenes) ya que esta información se utiliza para determinar la elegibilidad para los beneficios. Además, la solicitud le pedirá el nombre del padre/tutor, el nombre del(los) niño(s), la fecha de nacimiento, el nombre de la escuela, la dirección postal y la información de contacto. Después de completar la solicitud, recibirá un correo electrónico de confirmación. Si hay preguntas con su solicitud, se le contactará para obtener aclaraciones adicionales. Para recibir una tarjeta EBT, la dirección del hogar debe estar registrada en la oficina de correos. Si necesita ayuda para registrar su dirección en la oficina de correos, por favor visite <https://moversguide.usps.com/mgo/disclaimer?execution=e3s2&flowId=icoa-main-flow&referral=USPS>.

Nebraska continuará cumpliendo con los requisitos de derechos civiles, para incluir proporcionar acceso igualitario a personas con discapacidades e individuos que tienen un dominio limitado del inglés.

Si no está seguro del número de identificación del estudiante, comuníquese con la oficina del distrito escolar en (xxx) xxx-xxxx.