

2021-2022
Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer
(P-EBT)

Nebraska Department of Education- Nutrition Services
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

March 7, 2022

1

Housekeeping

- Mute your microphone
- OK to turn camera on (if joining from computer or smartphone)
- Type questions in chat or unmute at conclusion of presentation

2

THANK YOU!

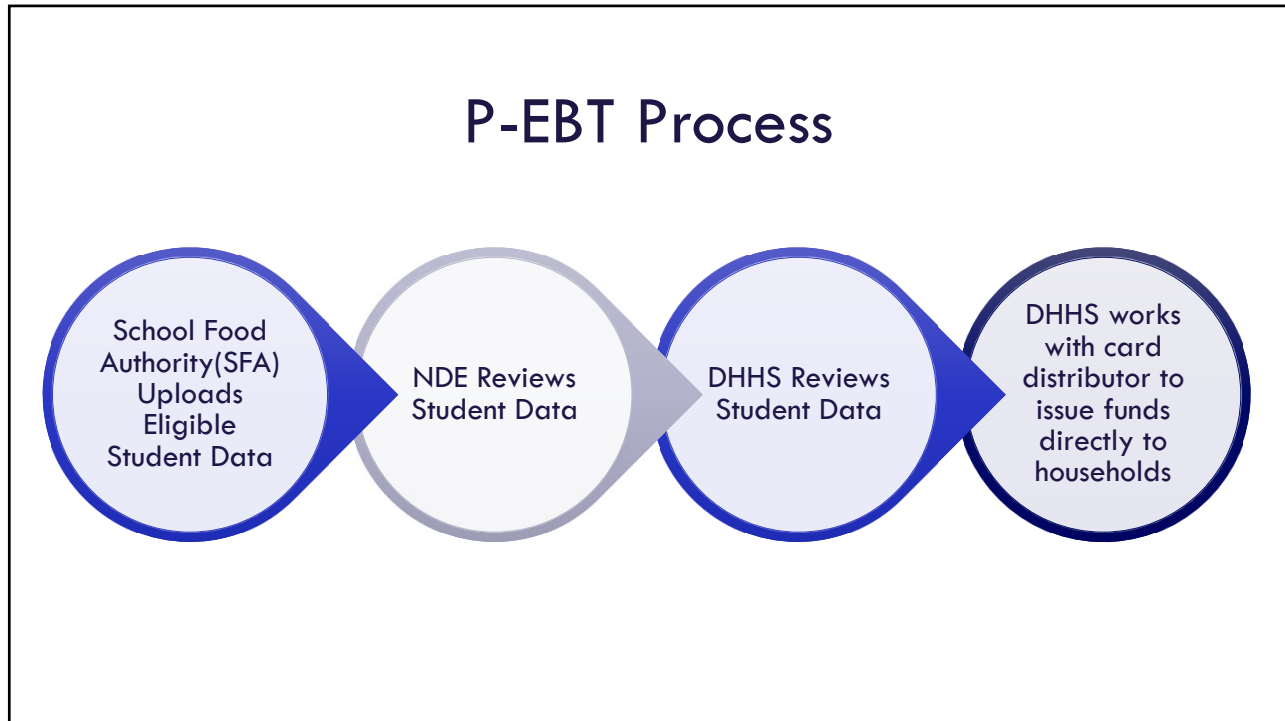
- Over 76 million dollars of P-EBT benefits were issued in 2020-2021 to Nebraska students
- 88,049 school children received these benefits during the 20-21 school year alone

3

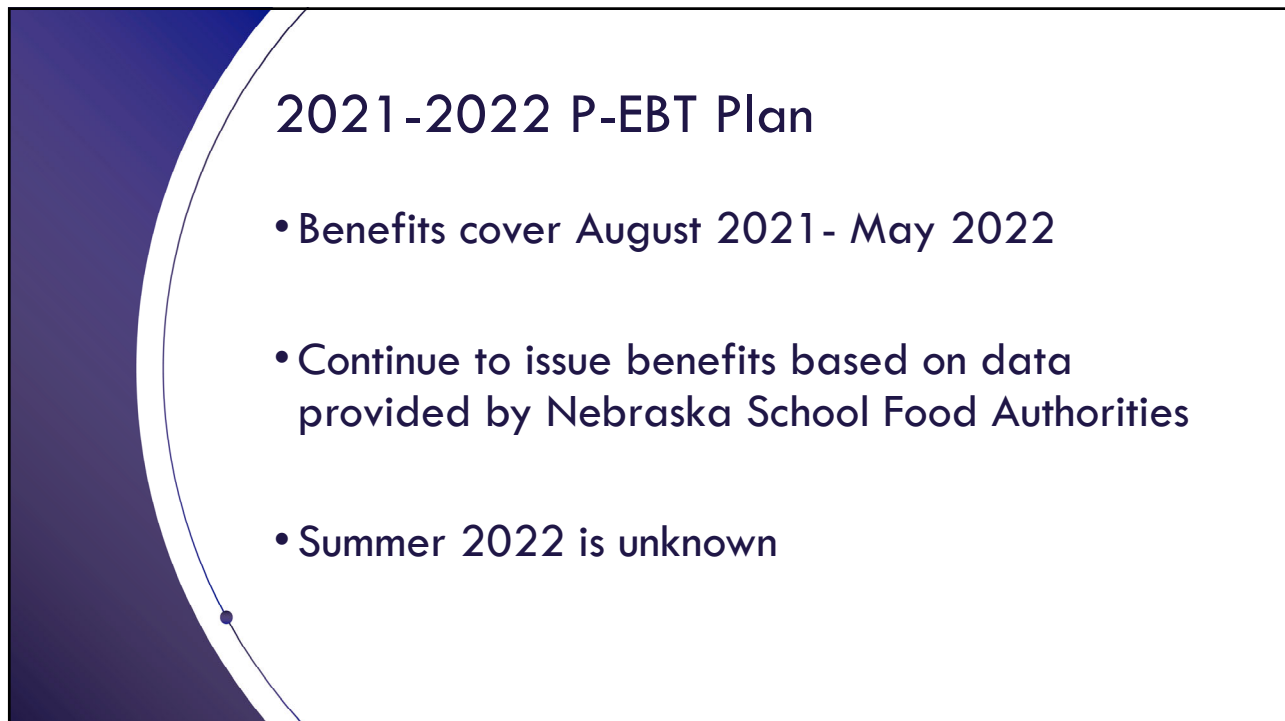
Agenda

- P-EBT Process Review
- 2021-2022 Plan
- Eligibility
- Benefit Levels
- Portal Uploads
- Issuance Calendar
- Reconsideration Process
- Important Contacts
- Q&A Session

4



5



6

2021-2022 Eligibility: School Level

- School building qualification
 - At least 1 enrolled student with **five consecutive day covid-related absence**
 - Can be ANY student (paid, reduced or free)
 - Other students **possibly** eligible for P-EBT if at least one student has five-day absence

7

2021-2022 Eligibility: Student Level

- After the school qualifies, student must:
 1. Be eligible to receive Free or Reduced priced meals for the 2021-2022 school year **AND**
 2. Experience a COVID-related absence
- School provides NDE with number of absence days within month

8

Defining COVID-Related Absence

School Directed Absence	Parent Directed Absence
Individual student	Exposure
Classroom closure	Positive test
Building closure	Travel quarantine
District closure	Learning remotely due to COVID concern

9

School Level Eligibility Example

SEPTEMBER 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 A	2 A	3 A	4
5	6 Labor Day	7 A	8 A	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

- Enrolled student was absent due to COVID from 9/1 – 9/8
- Weekends/school holidays do not count in 5 days
- Free and Reduced students would be eligible to receive P-EBT benefits starting on 9/1

10

Frequently Asked Question: Eligibility

- **An enrolled student met the school level requirement. When can students be issued P-EBT benefits?**
 - Eligible students enrolled at that school can start to receive P-EBT benefits on the first day of the five consecutive day absence.


11

Frequently Asked Question: Eligibility

- **Can students attending Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) schools be issued P-EBT benefits?**
 - Yes
 - After the CEP school has met the school level eligibility guideline, all students are eligible to receive benefits for COVID-related absences.


12

Frequently Asked Question: Eligibility

- 
- **None of our buildings were closed and no students experienced a five consecutive day absence or reduced attendance due to COVID. Do our students qualify for P-EBT?**
 - If the school level eligibility requirement is never met, none of the students in a school qualify for 21-22 P-EBT benefits.
 - The school level eligibility requirement can be met at any point during the 21-22 school year.

13

Frequently Asked Question: Eligibility

- 
- **A student didn't experience a five consecutive day absence due to COVID until September. Can students receive benefits for August?**
 - No, students cannot receive benefits for months prior to their school meeting the school level eligibility requirement.

14

Frequently Asked Question: COVID-Related

- **Can remote students be issued P-EBT benefits?**
 - YES. School and student level qualifications must be met. Remote learning must **be** COVID-related.
 - Online learning academies cannot participate in the NSLP; therefore, students of these schools are **NOT** eligible for P-EBT benefits.

15

Frequently Asked Question: COVID-Related

- **What if our school's attendance data is not specific to COVID?**
 - SFAs can include any excused absence of five consecutive days or more, as this is presumed to be COVID-related.

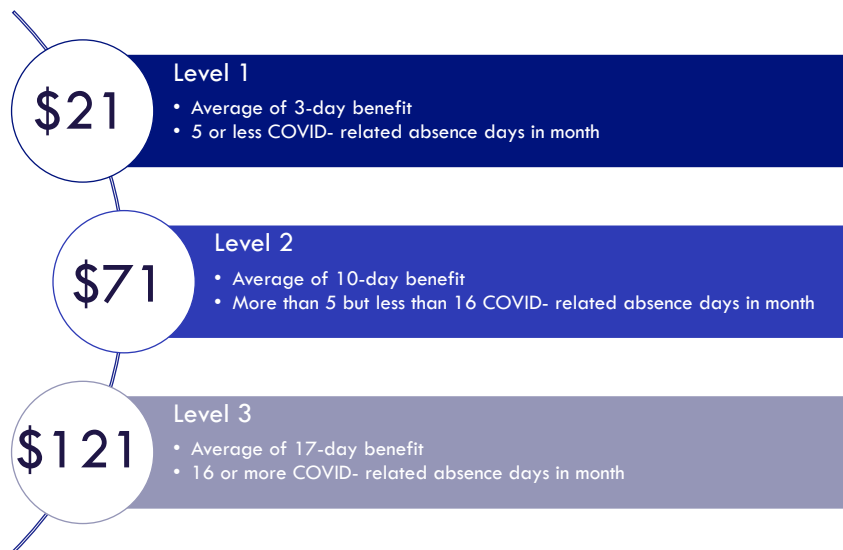
16

Frequently Asked Question: COVID-Related

- **Can partial day absences be uploaded into the portal?**
 - YES, but optional.
 - Partial days can be submitted in the portal (up to three decimals).
 - Please use consistent rounding practices.

17

Benefit Levels



18

Slide 18

DP7 do we want to clarify that if the absence is between 2 months, we would just need to include it in one month of issuance?

Dawn Peatrowsky, 3/1/2022

KJ14 Probably a good idea - I can see that causing confusion.

Kaitlyn Johnson, 3/1/2022

Portal Upload

- Continue to upload into the NDE Portal under P-EBT Data Collection
- Select month; upload file
 - Check for errors
- Data Requirements and Upload Instructions
- 2021-2022 P-EBT Data Collection Update

19

Portal Upload: Data Details

- File needs to be .CSV file type
- Each month should be uploaded individually
- New data requirement for 21-22
 - Days Absent or Remote from COVID
- Questions about upload process
 - Email adviserhelp@nebraskacloud.org

20

Frequently Asked Question: Portal Upload

- **Can files be uploaded early?**
 - Yes. Data *can* be uploaded early but will not be issued until the first issuance date for that benefit month.

See next slide for Issuance Calendar

21

Issuance Calendar

Benefit Months	Date Schools Provide Data to NDE	Date NDE Provides Data to DHHS	Issuance Dates
Corrected 2021 Summer P-EBT	February 11, 2022	February 15, 2022	March 11, 2022
August, September, and October	March 18, 2022	March 23, 2022	April 20, 2022
November, December, and January	April 15, 2022	April 21, 2022	May 19, 2022
February and March	May 16, 2022	May 23, 2022	June 16, 2022
April and May	July 18, 2022	July 25, 2022	August 16, 2022

22

Frequently Asked Question: Issuance Calendar

- **When will benefits uploaded after the issuance date be issued?**
 - Data that has been uploaded into the portal after the issuance date for that month will be issued on the next available issuance date.

EXAMPLE: An SFA successfully uploaded September 2021 data into the portal on May 1, 2022. These benefits would be issued on June 16, 2022 (next available issuance date).

23

Reconsideration Process

- Families may make a claim to DHHS for benefit reconsideration due to:
 - Student not receiving expected P-EBT benefits
 - Benefit amount was less than expected
- Process is initiated by family

24

Reconsideration Process: Step One

- Family contacts DHHS for benefit reconsideration
- DHHS collects data from family:
 - Parent(s) first and last name;
 - Student(s) first and last name;
 - Student(s) DOB;
 - School name(s) and district; and,
 - Comments/specifics from parent and DHHS.
- DHHS contact information-
 - 800-383-4278 option 5 or DHHS.NebraskaPEBT@nebraska.gov

25

Reconsideration Process: Step Two

- DHHS informs NDE of reconsideration request
- NDE follows up with SFA to request this information about the family:
 - Does the school participate in the National School Lunch Program?
 - Was the student(s) approved for free or reduced-price meals?
 - If yes, date of eligibility.
 - Did the school have a COVID-related absence, closure, or reduced attendance or hours for at least five consecutive days?
 - If yes, date the school met the five day requirement.
 - Was the student(s) absent from school in [MONTH]?
 - If yes, how many days were they absent?

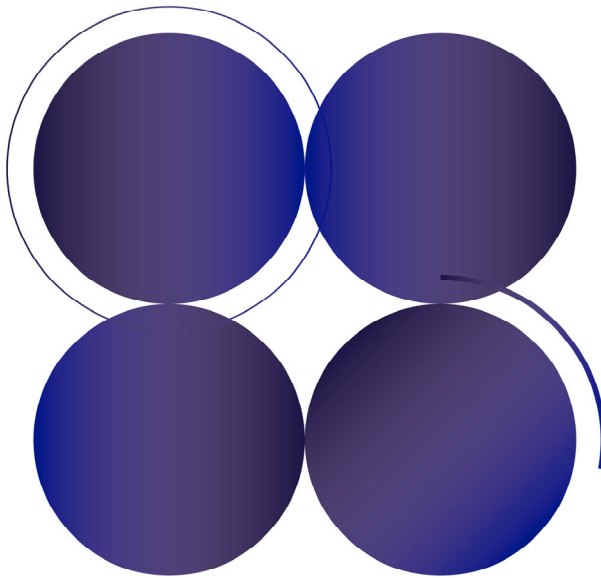
26

Reconsideration Process: Step Three

- NDE shares data collected from SFA with DHHS
- DHHS communicates results with family:
 - If student(s) was/were excluded, they will be added to the next scheduled issuance.
 - If the school indicates the student(s) is not eligible, DHHS will communicate with the family.

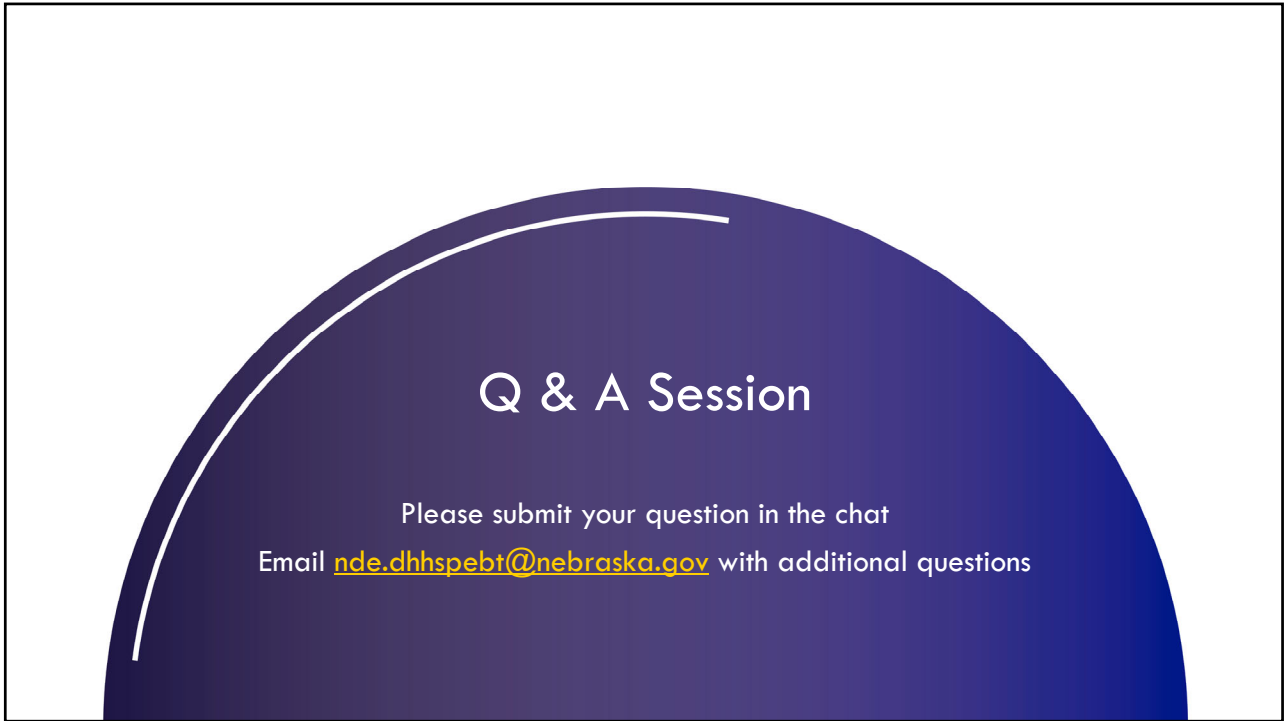
27

Important Contacts



- NDE Contact Information
 - 402-471-2488 or nde.nsweb@nebraska.gov
 - Eligibility questions
 - Correcting guardian or address
- DHHS Contact Information
 - 800-383-4278 option 5 or DHHS.NebraskaPEBT@nebraska.gov
 - Card issues
 - Reconsideration process

28



29



30