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## P-EBT Letter or Email to Families

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Dear Families,

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, students who normally get free or reduced price school meals at school may be eligible for a program to help your family buy groceries. This program is called Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT).

For each day that K-12 schoolchildren lack access to an in-school lunch, P-EBT provides eligible families with \$6.82 in benefits per student, per day. These benefits are provided on a card that can be used like a debit card to purchase food at any grocery store that accepts LINK cards.

**If your child is already enrolled in free or reduced price school meals AND your address is up-to-date:**

- Your child will get P-EBT automatically for qualifying days (days when the child lacked access to an in-school meal).
- Each child will receive their own card with their name on it.
- Cards will be mailed to you in March.
- Cards will arrive in an unmarked envelope so please be on the lookout.
- Families should hold onto their P-EBT card(s) because future benefits will be loaded onto the same card.

**If you are new to your school district, your student is not enrolled in free or reduced price meals, OR you recently moved:**

- You must fill out a free or reduced-price school meal application with your school. Your child may be eligible for benefits retroactive to August, but you should complete an application as soon as possible.
- Please visit your school website or call your school to submit a school meal application.

**You can get your P-EBT card mailed to the school instead, but you must notify the school that you want to do this.**

**All students are eligible regardless of immigration status.** P-EBT will not be considered under the public charge rule.

**Students can still get free meals from school and community sites and get P-EBT, too:**

- Take home meals and P-EBT are separate programs.
- To find free meal sites near you, text the word “food” or “comida” to: “877-877”
- You can also visit your school district website to find school meal locations in your area.

Don't forget: to receive P-EBT benefits, it is important that your address is up-to-date with your school.

For more information about P-EBT, please visit [www.chicagosfoodbank.org/pebt](http://www.chicagosfoodbank.org/pebt).