

School District 88

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February 18, 2021

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The State of Illinois is approved to provide new **Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer Program (P-EBT)** benefits to all eligible Illinois students. Families in our district will qualify for P-EBT because SD88 participates in the National School Lunch Program's Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). You do not need to complete an application to receive these benefits. Please note that citizenship status does not affect eligibility.

What is P-EBT? The purpose of P-EBT is to provide food assistance to families with students who would have received free or reduced lunch while attending school but are not receiving these meals in school due to COVID-19 restrictions.

- IL DHS will issue the P-EBT benefits to all eligible students based on the data provided by local school districts to ISBE.
- ISBE, through a data share agreement, shares eligible student data with the IL DHS monthly, beginning Feb 2021.
- The P-EBT benefit card will have the student's name on it and will be mailed to the student directly based on the mailing address on file at your enrolled school.
- For all subsequent P-EBT benefits, the benefits will be loaded on the initial card.

Who is eligible for P-EBT benefits? The following students are eligible for P-EBT benefits for School Year 2020-21.

- Students must be enrolled in an eligible NSLP participating Illinois school and;
- Students must be determined eligible to receive free/reduced lunch for the 2020-21 school year or enrolled in a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school and;
- Students are P-EBT eligible on school days in which a reimbursable meal was not provided to the student to consume at school. If "grab and go meals" are provided to students, this does not exclude these students from participating or being eligible for the P-EBT program.
- A day in which the student does not attend school for reasons other than COVID--19, such as an unexcused absence, are not P-EBT eligible days and should be excluded.
- **For each eligible P-EBT day, a student benefit is \$6.82.**

When will I receive the benefits? The Department of Human Services should begin issuing new P-EBT cards to all known eligible students in March 2021. Please note that all eligible students will receive benefits for all eligible school days, back to the beginning of this school year.

If you have any questions, including verifying your current mailing address on file, please reach out to your student's school office.

Thank you for your time to this matter.


Mark A. Holder, Ed.S.
Superintendent