

School Year 2021-2022

National School Lunch Program Free and Reduced-Price Meal Eligibility

Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT)

Some Texas families who lost access to free or reduced-price meals during School Year 2021-2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic will receive P-EBT food benefits. Information about this year's P-EBT benefits, including eligibility requirements and benefit amounts, will be released in mid-April.

One requirement for P-EBT is that students must be certified as eligible for free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) at their Texas school during the 2021-2022 school year. Receiving free meals at school does not automatically qualify a child for P-EBT.

Eligibility for free or reduced-price meals is determined in the following ways:

- ✓ NSLP household meal application for P-EBT received by April 29, 2022 and approved by the child nutrition department.
- ✓ Direct certification, details are below.
- ✓ Enrollment at a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) or Provision 2 (P2) school.

What action do families need to take?

1. Determine if you need to submit a household application for free or reduced-price meals:

- If you believe your family is income eligible for free or reduced-price meals, submit an NSLP household meal application to your child's school.
 - Not sure if you are income eligible? Use the [Income Eligibility Calculator](http://www.SquareMeals.org/IEC) here: www.SquareMeals.org/IEC

You **DO NOT** need to submit an NSLP household meal application if:

- Your child has been directly certified
- Your child or household is approved for SNAP, Medicaid, TANF, federally funded Head Start or Early Head Start, or your child has foster, migrant, or homeless status.
- Your child is enrolled at a CEP or P2 school.
 - If you are unsure if your child is enrolled at a CEP or P2 school, contact the child nutrition department.

2. Report COVID-19 related absences to your child's school.

- If your child was absent in the 2021-2022 school year due to COVID-19 illness, exposure, or quarantine; make sure the school knows the absence was caused by COVID-19.



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