



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 15, 2020

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Kyle L. Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent
Finance and Operations KG

SUBJECT: Student Eligibility for Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) -
MEMO #COVID-19-055

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) was approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to implement the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer Program (P-EBT). P-EBT is a food assistance program for Michigan students from birth to 26 who were receiving free or reduced-price school meals while at school. This includes:

- all students in a building participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP); and
- all students determined eligible for free or reduced-price meals at the local level by:
 - direct certification; or
 - approved free and reduced-price meal application

There is not a separate application process to receive P-EBT benefits. There are two ways eligible students can receive P-EBT benefits:

- 1) Students already receiving Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits will automatically have the P-EBT benefits added to their current Bridge card.
- 2) Students will be mailed a P-EBT card if they:
 - Have a Direct Certification match from foster care, Medicaid, or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); or
 - Are currently eligible based on their free and reduced-price meal application

The card will be sent to the address listed in the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS) based on student data in the 2020 spring general collection.

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Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and MDHHS staff are not able to collect free and reduced-price meal applications or correct address issues. As a result, families are being asked to contact their local school district administrative office. MDE is requesting that districts create a process to:

- collect and approve new free and reduced-price meal applications;
- update student addresses and/or update student birth dates in their student information system; and
- update student data in the MSDS through a school record maintenance (SRM) **before May 26, 2020.**

CEP buildings where all students receive free breakfast and lunch do not need to collect household information reports from families to determine eligibility. However, CEP schools still need a process in place to collect updated address information from households and to update addresses in their student information system.

MDE appreciates your continued partnership to feed children during these unprecedented times.

For more information about P-EBT, visit [P-EBT Food Assistance Benefits for School Children](#). If you have questions about P-EBT contact the Office of Health and Nutrition Services, School Nutrition Programs unit, at MDE-SchoolNutrition@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors