



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 13, 2021

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

FROM: Michael F. Rice, Ph.D., State Superintendent 

SUBJECT: School District Role in Pandemic EBT- MEMO #COVID-19-150

Please find the attached letter from the Michigan Department of Education and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services regarding the latest information on the distribution of Pandemic EBT benefits.

Pandemic EBT provides supplemental food assistance benefits to students who have temporarily lost access to free or reduced-price school meals due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Your assistance is needed to help make these benefits available to qualifying students in your district.

Over the next few weeks, you will be receiving additional information and step-by-step instructions for helping to make this program a reality in your district. Please read the attached information carefully and remember that Pandemic EBT does not replace the school food distribution program, which is currently providing meals to virtual and onsite students.

Questions may be directed to MDHHS-PEBT@michigan.gov.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Attachment

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors

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January 8, 2021

Helping Feed Michigan's Students

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) need your help in issuing Pandemic-EBT benefits to eligible students for the 2020-2021 school year. *P-EBT provides supplemental food assistance benefits to students who have temporarily lost access to free or reduced-price school meals due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal of the program is to make sure no child goes hungry by missing out on school meals.

MDHHS and MDE partnered during the 2019-2020 school year to provide these critical benefits to over 900,000 students. We are excited to be partnering again for the 2020-2021 school year and will need your help to provide these benefits to students to help reduce food insecurity.

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU

MDHHS will need to collect information from school districts about each building's primary learning modality. A simple, district-level data collection tool is being developed indicating how most students received instruction: virtually, through attending in-person classroom settings or a combination of each. **Please fill out the tool when it arrives in the next couple of weeks.**

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

The P-EBT program has specific eligibility requirements for both schools and students.

- Eligible **schools** must:
 - Be closed or have reduced in-person learning for at least 5 consecutive days in the current school year (beginning no earlier than September 9, 2020).
 - Be a provider of the National School Lunch Program
- Eligible **students** must:
 - Be enrolled in a Michigan school
 - Participate in a virtual or hybrid school schedule
 - Be eligible for free or reduced lunch or attend a Community Eligibility Provision school

**P-EBT was authorized by the Families First Corona Virus Response Act.*

HOW TO START PREPARING

1. **Make sure student addresses in the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS) are up to date and accurate.**
2. Once a change is made in your local Student Information Systems (SIS) **make sure to complete a Student Record Maintenance (SRM) or Early Childhood Program Spring Collection in MSDS** as soon as possible.
3. **Continue to certify students for Free and Reduced-Price Meals.** Applications for Free and Reduced-Price Meals can still be submitted and approved for students that qualify.
4. Make sure to **certify and extend eligibility** to students from the Direct Certification Reports.
5. **Update Free and Reduced-Price Meal eligibility** in the Supplemental Nutrition Eligibility (SNE) field in the MSDS via a SRM.
6. Be thinking about **who can complete the survey for your district** as well as a back-up person.
7. Be on the lookout for an e-mail from us asking you to **provide the key contacts** for this project.

We expect to provide more information over the next few weeks including written communications and webinars. In the meantime, if you have urgent questions, please email them to MDHHS-PEBT@michigan.gov.

Thank you for your efforts and partnership as we continue to support families during the pandemic.

The PEBT Team

