

UPDATE ON P-EBT – 1/6/2021

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and Blackduck School have received many questions regarding P-EBT since the announcement in December 2020. As soon as the Minnesota P-EBT plan is approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), we will be able to communicate more. In the meantime, see below for a few answers to your common questions.

1. What is the P-EBT eligibility criteria for schools and students?

Answer: Schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program or the Summer Food Service Program become eligible after they are closed or operating with reduced hours or attendance for at least five consecutive days. Once a school meets the eligibility requirement, students who are eligible for free or reduced-price (FRP) meals during school year 2020-21 qualify for P-EBT benefits on days they do not eat meals at school (e.g., distance learning). This includes children who are directly certified, certified by application, or enrolled in a Community Eligibility Provision school.

2. Are students eligible for P-EBT even if the school distributes meals to students on distance learning days, either through meal pick-up sites or delivery?

Answer: Yes. Students eligible for free or reduced-price meals may pick-up a meal or have a meal delivered to them AND still receive P-EBT benefits for the days they were distance learning.

3. How do families apply for P-EBT benefits for the 2020-21 school year?

Answer: There is not an application for P-EBT benefits. Eligibility will be determined using school data, which will be collected by MDE beginning in February. Schools should communicate with families that children must be approved for free or reduced-price meals for the 2020-21 school year in order to be eligible for this benefit. Benefits are not available immediately but may be retroactive to September 2020, depending upon when FRP eligibility is determined. More specific timelines will follow when the Minnesota P-EBT plan is approved by USDA.

Thank you for your patience. Blackduck School will strive to keep you informed of this benefit as we are given more information from MDE and the USDA. In the meantime **IF YOU HAVE NOT YET COMPLETED A FREE/REDUCED LUNCH APPLICATION FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2020/2021, DO THAT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO TRY TO QUALIFY FOR THIS BENEFIT.**

Any questions should be directed to, Tammy Vernlund, District Office, Phone: 218-835-5202.