

Summer EBT Materials Checklist

This No Kid Hungry checklist provides guidance on what to communicate to families about Summer EBT (S-EBT or SUN Bucks) so that they have all the critical information to access the program.

General

- Is the reader able to make sense of the information available, whether it be a family member or someone supporting families in understanding if they are eligible for S-EBT?
- Will families know if they need to take action or not?

Accessibility

- Are the materials reader-focused, and are common, everyday words being used? If terms/acronyms (NSLP, CEP, Direct Certification, Streamline certified) that may be unfamiliar to families are being used, be sure to add an explanation or replace with language that is more accessible to families.
- Are there FAQs available on a website (rather than in a pdf)? This is important because text on a webpage will be read by search engines, unlike a PDF, so that the information can be ranked higher in search results. In addition, a website can be easily updated with the most accurate and current information, while an outdated pdf can continue to circulate.
- If you google “Summer EBT [or program name] + State Name” can you find clear, concrete information?
- Is it clear that participating in the program will not affect immigration status/public charge?
- Are materials and websites available in languages other than English? If on a website, is there a translation button, or translated pages, the user can click to translate the page to their desired language?
- Can users easily find customer service information, including how to resolve individual issues?

Eligibility & Application Need

- Can a user determine their own eligibility and their need to apply, based on the information provided? For instance, do families have specific information to assess their eligibility such as whether they are attending an NSLP school (or information on how to find out) and what the specific income guidelines are?
- Is it clear that some children will receive benefits automatically and that some must apply?
- Is it clear which programs and statuses make a child automatically eligible for S-EBT and should lead to automatic issuance of benefits without an application? For example, approved for free/reduced price lunch, SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, if a child is homeless, in foster care, or a migrant.

Benefit Receipt

- Is it clear WHEN benefits will be issued? If an exact date is not known, an approximate date is sufficient.
- Are there details on HOW families will receive benefits? Will some families receive benefits on existing SNAP cards? Will some or all receive new S-EBT cards in the mail?
- Is there direction on WHEN benefits will be removed from cards, so families know the number of days/months they have to use their benefits?