



Fact Sheet for School Staff

Nebraska's Summer EBT program is back!



The Summer EBT program provides grocery benefits to families with school-aged children in our community. Last year alone, Summer EBT helped 175,000 kids in Nebraska get the healthy food that they usually enjoy while they're in school!

But a lot of families still don't know that they're eligible for this support, which is why we're calling on trusted community members (like you!) to help get the word out about Summer EBT. This partnership is crucial to making sure no child goes hungry over summer break. It can feel a little confusing to help families understand their eligibility or how to apply—which is why we're here to help!

How does Summer EBT work?

Here are the basics. We'll also provide a simple timeline and sample messaging to help you and other trusted community members get the word out. You're not in this alone!

- Summer EBT is for school-aged children in households that are at or under 185% of federal poverty guidelines.
- Families receive \$120 per eligible school-aged child for groceries, and the benefit is delivered on a 2025 Summer EBT card. Eligible children in the same household will have their benefits loaded onto a single card.
- Most eligible families will be automatically enrolled, but *some* will need to apply at bit.ly/NE-SEBT-application. We want to work together to help these families understand, sign up, and access their Summer EBT benefits.
- Families can check here if they need to apply, or if they should receive Summer EBT automatically: bit.ly/NE-SEBT-eligibilitychecker
- This is one of several programs that help families in our community. Summer EBT works alongside Summer Meals to help make sure Nebraskan kids are getting nutritious food all year round.
- *Special note for Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) schools* More of your families will need to apply for Summer EBT this year because the Alternative Income Application can't be used to automatically enroll children in the program this year. Families who aren't receiving SNAP, ADC, FDPIR, or Medicaid that aligns with the income guidelines for Summer EBT may need to apply (details below!).

You can help spread the word!

Your support and guidance to families about Summer EBT will help your students receive the food they need this summer. We'll provide sample email or social media messages that you can use to help keep your community informed!





Remember

Most eligible families will already be automatically enrolled for Summer EBT benefits, but some will need to apply. You don't have to have all the answers, but here's additional information so you have the tools you need to support your school.

Understanding eligibility

Are my students eligible for Summer EBT?

Summer EBT is for school-aged children in households at or under 185% of federal poverty guidelines.

Do my students need to sign up for Summer EBT, or do they get it automatically?

CEP schools

Some of your eligible families *won't* be automatically enrolled, so they may need to sign up.

Your families **need to apply** for Summer EBT if they are not:

- ☐ Receiving SNAP, ADC, FDPIR, or income-based Medicaid
- ☐ In foster care or identified as homeless, migrant, or runaway at school

▶ Last year, many of our students were automatically enrolled through their Alternative Income Application. That has changed in 2025, and these students need to apply!

Non-CEP schools

Most of your eligible families will be automatically enrolled, so they don't need to sign up.

They will receive Summer EBT automatically if they:

- ☒ Receive SNAP, ADC, FDPIR, or income-based Medicaid
- ☒ Are in foster care, or identified as homeless, migrant, or runaway at school
- ☒ Completed a "Free & Reduced Price School Meals Family Application" through school and were approved

How do families enroll in Summer EBT?

- **Check eligibility:** bit.ly/NE-SEBT-eligibilitychecker
- **Apply:** bit.ly/NE-SEBT-application (paper application available [here](#))



Things to keep in mind over the summer

- Benefits are issued as a one-time payment, and they will arrive in late April if the family is automatically enrolled.
- Families who are enrolled in the program will receive a notification letter in the mail before the benefits arrive. If they don't receive a notification, they may need to sign up. These families can still sign up until August 15th.

Using Summer EBT benefits

- All children in the same household will have their benefits loaded onto a new Summer EBT card.
- Families can activate new Summer EBT cards by calling the number on the back of the card. When asked for the primary cardholder's date of birth, enter the 8-digit birthday of the oldest child in the household. If the oldest child's birthday doesn't work, they should try the birthday(s) of other children in the household.
- After they've used up the benefit, they can throw the card away. If they're still eligible next year, they'll receive a new card next summer.

More help

Families can learn more about Summer EBT in Nebraska at bit.ly/NE-SummerEBT

If families have questions about Summer EBT cards (lost cards, address update, trouble activating cards, etc.), they can email Nebraska's SEBT customer service at DHHS.SEBT@nebraska.gov.

If families need extra help with their application, they can contact the Food Bank for the Heartland at 1-855-444-5556 for English and Spanish support.

If school staff have questions about Summer EBT, they can email NDE.SEBT@nebraska.gov.

