



# Fact Sheet for School Staff

Alabama launches the first summer of SUN Bucks!



**The SUN Bucks food support program provides grocery benefits to families with school-aged children in our community. This important program is expected to help over 500,000 kids in Alabama get access to healthy food this summer!**

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 SUN Bucks. This partnership is crucial to making sure no child goes hungry over the summer break.

## How does SUN Bucks 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!

- SUN Bucks 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 new Alabama SUN Bucks card with the child's name on it.
- Most eligible families will be automatically enrolled, but some will need to apply at [www.alabama-sunbucks.com](http://www.alabama-sunbucks.com)
- We want to work together to help these families understand, sign up, and access their SUN Bucks benefits.
- Families can check to see if they need to apply or if they are receiving SUN Bucks automatically.

## You can help spread the word!

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





## Remember

Most eligible families will already be automatically enrolled for SUN Bucks 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. You've got this!

## Understanding eligibility

### Are my students eligible for SUN Bucks?

The SUN Bucks program is for school-aged children whose household income meets the requirements for free- or reduced-price school meals.

### Do my students need to sign up for SUN Bucks, 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 Sun Bucks if they are **not**:

- ☐ Receiving SNAP, TANF, or Medicaid through the school demonstration project
- OR
- ☐ In foster care or identified as homeless, migrant, or runaway at school

Some families might think they are automatically enrolled in SUN Bucks like they were in P-EBT, but they will need to apply unless they meet one of the criteria above.

#### Non-CEP schools

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

They will receive SUN Bucks automatically if they:

- ☒ Receive SNAP, TANF, or Medicaid through the school demonstration project
- OR
- ☒ Are in foster care, or identified as homeless, migrant, or runaway at school
- OR
- ☒ Completed a "Free or Reduced Meal Application" through school and were approved

### What should families do?

- Check their eligibility and apply if needed: [www.alabama-sunbucks.com](http://www.alabama-sunbucks.com)



## Things to keep in mind over the summer

- Benefits are issued as a one-time payment, and they will start to be sent in June if the family is automatically enrolled. See an example of an Alabama SUN Bucks card below!
- Families who are enrolled in the program will receive an eligibility letter in the mail before the benefits arrive. If they don't receive a letter, they may need to sign up.
- These families can still sign up until August 15th.

## Using SUN Bucks benefits

- Cards are accepted at grocery stores, farmers' markets, convenience stores, and online retailers. Alabama SUN Bucks can buy most SNAP-eligible foods, except hot and prepared foods.
- SUN Bucks benefits must be used within 122 days (about 4 months) after they are issued, or they will expire.
- Families should hold onto their SUN Bucks cards for next year!

## More help

- Families can **learn more** about SUN Bucks in Alabama at [www.alabama-sunbucks.com](http://www.alabama-sunbucks.com).
- **For more support**, they can reach the Alabama SUN Bucks Call Center at 1-800-443-3536 (Spanish translators are available) or [support@alabama-sunbucks.com](mailto:support@alabama-sunbucks.com).
- Families who have recently moved may need to **update their mailing address** by logging into the Parent Portal or calling the Alabama SUN Bucks Call Center at 1-800-443-3536.

