

# ROUND 3 HAWAI'I P-EBT



## What is P-EBT?

The Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program is food assistance approved by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, and authorized by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127) as amended by the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act (P.L. 116-159) and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260).

## Who is it for?

- Students who are either enrolled for free or reduced-price school meals at a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) OR...
- Students who are enrolled in a school that provides free meals to all students through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) or another provision. See the link below for CEP school listing:  
<http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/TeachingAndLearning/HealthAndNutrition/StudentHealthResources/Pages/CEP.aspx>

**Important information from Hawaii Department of Human Services:** There is NO APPLICATION for P-EBT benefits. Eligible students are automatically enrolled for P-EBT through verification provided by the Department of Education (DOE) and NSLP-participating Charter and Private schools. Eligible students are either enrolled for free or reduced-price school meals at a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program, or students who are enrolled in a school that provides free meals to all students through the Community Eligibility Provision or another provision.

## **Important Information from the Hawai'i Department of Education that will help families receive P-EBT benefits:**

If your child is in need and is NOT enrolled in the free and reduced-price school lunch program, (and you would like for them to receive P-EBT benefits) please enroll via EZMealApp.com if your child is attending a DOE school. For children attending a NSLP-participating Charter or Private school, please contact your school.

## How Does this Work?

Eligible students will have their benefits issued to their own Hawai'i P-EBT account that is accessible through a Hawai'i P-EBT card (white card with black lettering) or a Kokua EBT card.

For newly eligible students that have not received P-EBT for the 2020-21 school year, they will be mailed a Hawai'i P-EBT card.

For students that had received P-EBT benefits on a Hawai'i P-EBT card issued to only a single student for August and September of the current 2020-21 school year, P-EBT benefits continuing from October 2020 through the balance of the school year will be issued to their existing P-EBT account and can be redeemed with their existing Hawai'i P-EBT card or Kokua EBT card (for students who were issued this card instead of a Hawaii P-EBT card).

For students on SNAP that had received P-EBT benefits on their family's SNAP Kokua EBT account and card, or that were combined with other students under a shared Hawai'i P-EBT card and account, new individual Hawaii P-EBT cards will be mailed so that each student can access their own P-EBT benefits continuing from October 2020 through the balance of the school year.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Families new to the program that are mailed a Hawai'i P-EBT card will receive a card in the name of each eligible student. Hawai'i P-EBT cards can also be used in the Da Bux program.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** If a replacement card is needed (Kokua EBT or Hawai'i P-EBT) please call the Fidelity Information Service (FIS) customer service at 1- 888-328-4292 and mention you are requesting a replacement card for a PEBT account.

### **How Much Will Students Receive?**

Students that had already received P-EBT benefits for the months of August and/or September are eligible to receive a retroactive payment for the increase to the daily meal rate that was authorized by President Biden in January 2021. Depending on the official start date of the school, the retroactive increase for the month of August can vary. The following is the retroactive payment amounts for the months of August and September 2020:

August: \$1 – \$24  
September: \$25

For the months of October through the balance of the current 2020-21 school year, the amount an eligible student may be able to receive is dependent on the predominant learning model of the student's school as reported by the Department of Education and NSLP-participating Charter and Private schools. Each month, a school will report the predominant learning model (100% in-person, blended or hybrid, or 100% virtual learning).

Depending on the learning model of the student’s school, a student will either not be eligible to receive P-EBT benefits, receive half a month’s benefit amount, or receive a full month’s benefit amount. The monthly benefit amount per learning model is:

- 100% in-person learning = \$0, not eligible for PEBT
- Blended or Hybrid learning = \$72
- 100% virtual learning = \$143

A letter separate from the Hawai’i P-EBT card mailer will be mailed starting from April 12, 2021 to inform you how much your student will be receiving for the October to March period. A monthly letter will be sent out thereafter.

**When will benefits be issued?**

The Hawai’i P-EBT benefits will be loaded to the Hawai’i P-EBT accounts beginning April 20, 2021. This first issuance will cover the retroactive increase payments for August and September, and for the benefit months of October to December. Beginning April 27, 2021, payments for the benefit months of January to March will be loaded.

Payments for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year will be issued monthly, and will follow this schedule:

<u>Benefit Month</u>	<u>Benefit Availability</u>
April 2021	May 17, 2021
May 2021	June 15, 2021

**Do I or my child have to be a U.S. citizen to receive P-EBT benefits?**

No. These benefits are for all children who are either enrolled for free or reduced-price school meals or enrolled at a school that provides free meals to all students through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) or another provision. Using P-EBT benefits will NOT affect a parent or child’s immigration status.

**Where can I check on my child’s P-EBT benefit status?**

Go to [humanservices.hawaii.gov](http://humanservices.hawaii.gov) and click on to the P-EBT status banner.

**Where can I call if I have more questions (such as where can I report a change of address)?**

Contact the P-EBT call center at 1-888-975-PEBT(7328), or send an email message to [hi.pebt@dhs.hawaii.gov](mailto:hi.pebt@dhs.hawaii.gov).

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