

Date: May 18, 2021

To: Superintendents of Public School Districts
BOCES District Superintendents
School Business Officials
& K D U W H U 6 F K R R O / H D G H U V
School Food Directors

From: Kathleen R. DeCataldo 

Subject: Mandatory Collection of Student Enrollment, Price Eligibility, and Instructional Modality Data for the Issuance of Pandemic Food Benefits

Section 4601 of the federal Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act (P.L. 116-159) extends the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program for eligible school children attending schools implementing federal Child Nutrition Programs, including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Seamless Summer Option (SSO) and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) for the 2020-21 School Year (SY). This memo provides notice to School Food Authorities (SFAs) to immediately commence compiling eligibility and other data necessary for the issuance of SY 2020-21 P-EBT benefits to eligible children.

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price eligibility for SY 2020-21 to provide an opportunity for children who were not eligible for free or reduced-price meals last school year, as well as children who are newly enrolled in school (kindergarten, transfers, etc.), to establish their eligibility in SY 2020-21. SFAs should use their established direct certification systems and application processes to determine new student eligibility.

This data collection requirement applies to SFAs providing free meals to all students through the SFSP or SSO. Participation in one of these programs during SY 2020-21 does not automatically qualify a child for free meals or for P-EBT; children must meet the free or reduced-price eligibility criteria established under the NSLP and SBP or attend a school participating in Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) or Provision 2 (P2).

P-EBT Eligibility Criteria

Unlike SY 2019-20 P-EBT, there are eligibility criteria for SY 2020-21 in addition to free and reduced-price eligibility.

Eligible