

Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Food Assistance Program FAQ for Schools (for internal purposes only)



The Department of Human Services (DHS) is the lead agency for the P-EBT Program. The following are questions schools may receive in regards to the P-EBT Program. For additional questions regarding the P-EBT Program, please refer the parent/guardian to DHS at hi.pebt@dhs.hawaii.gov or to the DHS website at <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/> or have the parent/guardian call the DHS Public Assistance Information Line 1 - 855-643-1643

Who is eligible to receive P-EBT?

Hawaii households are eligible if they have students who are either eligible for free or reduced-price school meals **OR** enrolled in a school that provides free meals to all students through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) or another provision.

A list of CEP schools can be found here:

<http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/TeachingAndLearning/HealthAndNutrition/StudentHealthResources/Pages/CEP.aspx>

Do I need to apply for P-EBT?

No, the Hawaii State Department of Education (HIDOE) will provide information for all eligible students directly to DHS. Households do not have to apply for P-EBT.

If I already qualified for free and reduced-price school meals but I plan to move or have recently moved, what should I do?

Contact your child's school to update your primary address. HIDOE will then update DHS on your changed address.

What are the deadlines to apply for free and reduced-price school meals?

To receive the P-EBT cards, free and reduced-price school meals applications and address changes must be submitted by the following deadlines:

- **September 15:** Deadline for hard-copy free and reduced-price school meal applications to the school (hard copies available at the school office)
- **September 21:** Deadline for [online](#) free and reduced-price school meals applications
- **September 22:** Deadline to submit address changes to the school

How do I know if I am eligible for free and reduced-price meals?

The household size and income criteria identified below for 2020-2021 school year will be used to determine eligibility for free and reduced-price benefits. Children from households whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

**INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE MEALS EFFECTIVE
JULY 1, 2020 TO JUNE 30, 2021**

Household Size	FREE MEALS					REDUCED-PRICE MEALS				
	Yearly	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly	Yearly	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	19,084	1,591	796	734	367	27,158	2,264	1,132	1,045	523
2	25,779	2,149	1,075	992	496	36,686	3,058	1,529	1,411	706
3	32,474	2,707	1,354	1,249	625	46,213	3,852	1,926	1,778	889
4	39,169	3,265	1,633	1,507	754	55,741	4,646	2,323	2,144	1,072
5	45,864	3,822	1,911	1,764	882	65,268	5,439	2,720	2,511	1,256
6	52,559	4,380	2,190	2,022	1,011	74,796	6,233	3,117	2,877	1,439
7	59,254	4,938	2,469	2,279	1,140	84,323	7,027	3,514	3,244	1,622
8	65,949	5,496	2,748	2,537	1,269	93,851	7,821	3,911	3,610	1,805
For each additional household member add:	6,695	558	279	258	129	9,528	794	397	367	184

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price policy, the Department will review applications and determine eligibility. Parents or guardians may discuss the decision on an application with the reviewing official on an informal basis. More information [here](#).

How will I get the P-EBT funds?

The Hawaii Kokua Card (EBT) system is used to provide funds to ALL eligible students. Families receiving SNAP and/or cash assistance from DHS and already have a Kokua Card will have these additional funds added to their existing cards. Families who do not already have a Kokua Card will receive a pre-loaded Hawaii P-EBT card in the mail; thus, it is important that changes in mailing addresses be submitted to the schools by September 15, 2020.

If I have more than one child, will I get different cards for each child?

All eligible students located at the same address on file with HIDOE will be under one Hawaii P-EBT card with the card account under the name of the eldest child. Parents/guardians will need to activate the card by following the instructions that will be mailed with the card. In situations where adding the eligible student is not possible or appropriate, a separate card will be mailed for the eligible student.

My child's school still offers Grab-and-Go meals. Can I still get P-EBT?

Yes, if your children are eligible for P-EBT, you will receive the benefits even if you currently receive free meals from your school.

I share custody of my child. Which parent/guardian will receive the Hawaii P-EBT card?

The Hawaii P-EBT card will be mailed to the primary address on file with the student's school.

I'm eligible for P-EBT but have more questions. Who do I contact?

You can contact DHS via email at hi.pebt@dhs.hawaii.gov. In your email, please provide the following information: Your name (first and last), Student's name (first and last), Student's school, SNAP or TANF case number (if known or applicable), and your question.

*To Check Your Child's Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) Food Assistance Status – [click here](#)
P-EBT Resources (FAQs and Flyer) in Translated Languages – [click here](#)*