

Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) Guidance for Foster Youth and Students Experiencing Homelessness

February 2021

The intent of this guidance is to provide information to local educational agencies about the P-EBT program that can be used to communicate with students and their families.

Extension of the Pandemic EBT (P-EBT)

The P-EBT has been extended through September 2021. One requirement for students to be eligible for P-EBT benefits is they must be enrolled at a school participating in the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs. While CDE will rely on the foster and direct certification data maintained in CALPADS to identify eligible students, for highly mobile students such as foster and homeless youth, it is especially important that LEAs keep the following data up-to-date in CALPADS:

- Student enrollments and exits, especially enrollments in provision schools
- Free or reduced-price meal program records
- Migrant, homeless, and foster records

Previously P-EBT benefit cards were mailed to addresses provided on applications. This year no applications are required; P-EBT benefit cards will be mailed to each student based on the student's address in CALPADS. Therefore, it is essential that LEAs ensure student mailing addresses are up-to-date in CALPADS.

P-EBT Benefits for Youth in Foster Care

All students identified in CALPADS as a foster youth will receive a P-EBT benefit card. This includes any student identified as a foster youth through the weekly match process with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and any student identified as a tribal foster youth by LEAs in CALPADS. Therefore, it is essential for LEAs to maintain up-to-date enrollment records for students in CALPADS. Current enrollment records are necessary to ensure foster youth are identified successfully and in a timely manner.

Distribution of P-EBT Benefit Cards to Homeless Students

LEAs will assist in the distribution of P-EBT benefit cards to homeless students who do not have an address to receive mail.

- If LEAs choose to distribute cards to homeless students at schools, they should populate homeless student addresses with a school site address.
- If LEAs choose to distribute cards to homeless students from a central location, such as a district office, they should populate homeless student addresses with a district office address.
- If a homeless student's mailing address is left blank, the P-EBT card will be mailed to the LEA's mailing address maintained in the CDE's Online Public Update for Schools (OPUS) system.

Additional P-EBT Information

More information about the P-EBT benefit extension can be found on the CDE's Nutrition Services *School Year 2020-21 Pandemic EBT* webpage at:

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/sy202021pandemicebt.asp>

More information about P-EBT and CALPADS can be found in CALPADS Flash #200 on the CDE CALPADS Communications webpage at: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sp/cl/communications.asp>

Questions specific to Homeless or Foster Youth can be emailed to:

homelessed@cde.ca.gov

fosteryouth@cde.ca.gov