



June, 8 2020

Greetings,

On May 28, 2020, Minnesota was approved to offer food benefits to families whose children were between the ages of 5 and 18 on September 1, 2019 and received free or reduced-price meals during the 2019-20 school year. This program can provide \$325 per child in additional funds to help pay for groceries. These funds are available regardless of whether your family is enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP).

If a child in your home was receiving free or reduced-prices meals when schools closed in March, your family is eligible for this important benefit. If your child was not receiving free or reduced-price meals, but was part of your family's SNAP or MFIP case, you are also eligible for this benefit. To access these benefits, please see the instructions that match your specific situation below.

If your family was receiving SNAP or MFIP benefits on March 18, 2020: You are eligible for these benefits, and \$325 per child will be added to your EBT card balance. You do **not** need to apply for these benefits or take any additional action, as this benefit is automatic.

If your family received free or reduced-price meals during the past school year and does not receive SNAP or MFIP: You will need to complete an application for benefits at the following website: www.mn.p-ebt.org. When you are approved, you will receive your card in the mail, and you can use it to purchase groceries at any EBT-approved grocery stores. You will receive \$325 per child, which will be preloaded onto the card. If you do not complete the short application before June 30, 2020, you will not receive these benefits.

These benefits are intended to replace the benefits your child would have received if they had been able to attend school through June. These benefits are available even if your child continued to receive meals through your school. By signing up for these benefits, you will not be enrolling in SNAP, MFIP, free or reduced-price meals or any other program.

If you have questions about requesting or using these benefits, please contact the P-EBT Hotline at 651-431-4050 or 800-657-3698.

If your family is struggling to afford healthy food to eat, please contact your local county or tribal human services agency, apply for additional benefits at ApplyMN.dhs.mn.gov, or contact the Minnesota Food HelpLine at 651-486-9860 or 888-711-1151.

Sincerely,

Mark Messman

Superintendent
Eden Valley-Watkins ISD 463

Need assistance purchasing groceries?

If your child was between the ages of 5 and 18 on September 1, 2019 and was eligible for free or reduced-price meals during the 2019-20 school year, you could receive \$325 per child in Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) benefits. These benefits can help your family purchase groceries and are available even if your child continued to receive school meals during the distance learning period. This program is a benefit for your child, and applying for P-EBT does not affect enrollment in any other program.

If you are already enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) – and your case was open as of March 18, 2020 – your benefits will be automatic. If you are not enrolled in these programs, but your child was receiving free or reduced-price meals this school year – or your family accesses food through the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) – you will need to apply for these benefits.

Families receiving SNAP or MFIP when schools closed on March 18, 2020:

- Benefits will be loaded automatically to your EBT card.
- You **do not** need to apply or to take any additional steps.

Families receiving free/reduced-price meals or FDPIR, but *not* SNAP/MFIP, during the distance learning period:

- You will need to complete an application between June 8, 2020, and June 30, 2020.
- Apply at www.mn.p-ebt.org
- A card will be mailed to you if you are found eligible. You can use it to buy groceries at most local grocery stores.

If you have questions, or need help applying for or using your P-EBT benefits, please contact the P-EBT Hotline at 800-657-3698.

If your family is having trouble purchasing healthy food, please contact your local county or tribal human services agency or the Minnesota Food HelpLine at hungersolutions.org or 651-486-9860.