



# State of New Jersey

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To: School Business Administrators; Charter School Leads; Non Public School Administrators; Food Service Directors of Schools Participating in the National School Lunch and/or School Breakfast Programs

From: Arleen Ramos-Szatmary, M.S.  
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Date: February 26, 2024

Subject: New Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (Summer EBT) Program Information and School Reporting Template

In December 2022, Congress created a new, permanent, nationwide program authorized as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, for States and certain Indian Tribal Organizations to provide food dollars to low-income families with school-aged children over the summer months. The program, officially called Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer, or Summer EBT, aims to reduce summer childhood hunger by providing families with a grocery benefit to feed their children while on summer break and not receiving nutritious meals at school.

Beginning in Summer 2024, all states and territories can participate in Summer EBT. Summer EBT will provide families with children who are eligible for federal free or federal reduced price school meals with \$40 per child per month to cover the three summer months of June, July, and August when school is not in session. New Jersey will be issuing the Summer EBT benefit as a single \$120 allotment per eligible child. Families will receive physical EBT cards, like those used for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which they can then use to purchase nutritious food.

The State of New Jersey is pending final approval by the United States Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to operate the program, with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) designated as the lead agency for Summer EBT. The NJDA Division of Food and Nutrition is working in collaboration with the Department of Human Services (DHS), the Department of Education (DOE), and the Office of the Food Security Advocate (OFSA) on this groundbreaking initiative.

Students must be individually certified as eligible for the program, *including* those who attend schools that provide free meals to all students through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). Students must also meet federal free and federal reduced price income eligibility thresholds.

Eligibility for Summer EBT may be established in several ways. Per Sec. 13A of the NSLA, **children eligible for Summer EBT include children who in the instructional year immediately preceding the summer (herein understood as SY 2023-2024) or during the summer operational period:**

- Attend an NSLP/SBP-participating school, and have been certified as eligible for federal free or federal reduced price school meals through direct certification, categorical eligibility, or an approved NSLP/SBP application;

- Attend an NSLP/SBP-participating Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school and are directly certified, or categorically eligible;
- Attend an NSLP/SBP-participating school but are not already certified by either direct certification, categorical eligibility, or by an approved NSLP/SBP application, and are otherwise certified by a federal Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application. This includes children who were not already certified as eligible for federal free or federal reduced price school meals during the immediately preceding instructional year (SY 2023-2024);
- Attend an NSLP/SBP-participating Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school but are not already certified by either direct certification or categorical eligibility, and are otherwise certified by a New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) Household Information Survey Form. This includes children who were not already certified as low-income (“free” or “reduced”) via the NJDOE Household Information Survey Form during the immediately preceding instructional year (SY 2023-2024);
- Do not attend an NSLP/SBP-participating school, but are currently approved to receive NJ SNAP, TANF, or FOSTER CARE benefits, and meet the age requirement for compulsory education in New Jersey, which is between the ages of 6-16 years old.

Children enrolled in NSLP/SBP-participating schools who do not already have an individual eligibility determination on file during the period of eligibility for Summer EBT must submit a School Meals Application and be determined eligible, in order to participate in the Program.

Children enrolled in NSLP/SBP-participating CEP schools who do not already have an individual eligibility determination on file during the period of eligibility for Summer EBT must submit a NJDOE Household Information Survey Form and be determined eligible, in order to participate in the Program.

The following Summer EBT Eligibility Flowcharts are provided for reference:

 [Summer EBT Eligibility Flowchart for Children Enrolled in NSLP/SBP-Participating Schools](#)

 [Summer EBT Eligibility Flowchart for Children Not Enrolled in NSLP/SBP-Participating Schools](#)

Accurate student eligibility information is crucial to the success of the program. In preparation for the **May 1, 2024** launch of the **Summer EBT link in SNEARS**, SFAs must populate the new [Summer EBT School Reporting Template](#) with student demographic information and meal eligibility data from their Student Information and/or Point-of-Sale Systems. It is strongly advised to consult with any personnel directly involved in the preparation and/or [formatting of the Summer EBT School Reporting Template](#), to ensure that your SIS and/or POS systems are able to correctly export the required information into the new template. You may need to contact your IT Department or SIS/POS software vendor customer support for assistance.

A memo containing more information about the Summer EBT File Upload Process, including Webinar Training Date, will be provided under separate cover in the coming weeks.

We appreciate your partnership and look forward to working with you during this transition to ensure success. Questions may be directed to the School Nutrition Programs Unit at 609-984-0693.