



## 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: Rose Chamberlain, Director  
Division of Food and Nutrition

Date: March 12, 2025

Subject: Summer 2025 Electronic Benefit Transfer Program (SEBT) Information and Updated School Reporting Template

For Summer 2025, Summer EBT will continue to provide New Jersey 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 again be issuing the one-time 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 anywhere that SNAP-EBT is accepted.

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) is 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 permanent initiative.

Beginning in 2025, federal regulations at 7 CFR 292.12(c) stipulate that States must establish and maintain a comprehensive database of all children enrolled in NSLP/SBP-participating schools within the State, for the purposes of enrolling children for Summer EBT benefits and detecting and preventing duplicate benefit issuance. This is why School Food Authority (SFA) Summer EBT File Uploads are so important, as they serve as the foundation for this "database". NJDA cannot stress enough the importance of regular, timely, and accurate file uploads immediately prior to, and ongoing throughout the Summer Operational Period.

It is imperative that SFAs appoint a designated individual for the administration of the Summer EBT program at the local level. Start preparing for Summer 2025 now by encouraging all families to update their address to ensure timely benefit distribution. Please also work with your data processing and IT departments to ensure that precise student demographic, enrollment, and meal eligibility information for every student on file with access to meals, is accurately uploaded into the SNEARS Summer EBT System. For Summer 2025, significant improvements are being made to the School Food Authority (SFA) File Upload Process, including technology enhancements specifically targeting duplicate SFA student data.

Accurate student eligibility and enrollment information is crucial to the success of the program. In

preparation for the **April 21, 2025** launch of the **Summer EBT link in SNEARS**, SFAs must populate the newly revised [Summer EBT School Reporting Template](#) with student demographic information, meal eligibility, and enrollment 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.

As a reminder, 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 2024-2025), 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 SY 2024-2025 School Meals and Summer EBT application;
- Attend an NSLP/SBP-participating Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school and are directly certified, categorically eligible, or certified as low-income (“free” or “reduced”) via an approved SY 2024-2025 School Meals and Summer EBT application;
- Do not attend an NSLP/SBP-participating school, but are currently approved to receive NJ SNAP, TANF, FOSTER CARE, or income-tested MEDICAID 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 SY 2024-2025 School Meals and Summer EBT 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 SY 2024-2025 School Meals and Summer EBT Application 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](#)

A memo containing more information about the Summer EBT 2025 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 to ensure success in this sophomore year of the program. Questions may be directed to the dedicated Summer EBT email address for School Food Authorities at: [DFNSummerEBT@ag.nj.gov](mailto:DFNSummerEBT@ag.nj.gov).