



## BUTTE FALLS CHARTER SCHOOL – MAY 2020

### Extra Food Benefits for Families During School Closures

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Butte Falls Charter School is a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school. As a CEP school we are able to provide free breakfast and lunch for all of our students. Because your student attends a CEP school you're eligible to get extra grocery money. It's a new program called Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT).

For each month that school is closed and you are eligible, you will get \$5.70 per day for each of your children a K-12 school, school-based preschool, or school based Headstart that normally participate in the National School Lunch Program. AND you can still get "grab and go" meals from school during the pandemic!

**Immigration status does not matter for Pandemic EBT. Pandemic EBT will not count in a public charge test.**

Here are the ways your family can receive the Pandemic EBT benefit:

1. Already get SNAP? The extra money will be loaded on your Oregon Trail EBT card automatically.
2. Don't have SNAP? A new EBT card will be automatically mailed to you with instructions. **If your whole school gets free meals, you will qualify too.** Even though Pandemic EBT uses the same type of card as SNAP, Pandemic EBT is NOT SNAP benefits and is not considered in a public charge test.
3. You don't need to do anything. You will have the option of opting out if you choose.

To find out more information, you can visit [oregonhunger.org/covid-19](http://oregonhunger.org/covid-19) or call 2-1-1. We can also field questions at Butte Falls School District Office. Please email Julie Freeman at [jfreeman@buttefalls.k12.or.us](mailto:jfreeman@buttefalls.k12.or.us). For more food resources, please visit <http://needfood.oregon.gov/>

**Stay safe. Stay healthy.**

Sincerely,

Julie Freeman - Administrative Assistant

Butte Falls School District  
[jfreeman@buttefalls.k12.or.us](mailto:jfreeman@buttefalls.k12.or.us)

# Food Benefits for Families During School Closures

Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) provides families financial support to cover the cost of groceries while school is closed. This benefit is provided to ALL families whose children receive free and reduced-price school meals in Oregon.

## Who is eligible?

Any household with children who, if not for school closures during the COVID19- outbreak, would be receiving free and reduced-price meals through their school. This includes families with children enrolled in a K12- school, school-based preschool or school-based Headstart that normally participates in the National School Lunch Program. **Families can get both Pandemic EBT and the prepared "grab and go" meals that schools are serving during the pandemic.** P-EBT is also a separate benefit from the emergency extra SNAP benefits being given out right now and families that qualify will receive both. **Immigration status does not matter for Pandemic EBT. Pandemic EBT will not count in a public charge test.**

## How much is the benefit?

The benefit is equal to the value of school meals over a month and has nothing to do with if you qualify for the "Free" or the "Reduced" level. Benefits each month are:

March = \$69 per child

April = \$126 per child

May = \$120 per child

June = \$69 per child

## How will it work?

Benefits are issued through an EBT card to the head of household. It works just like a debit card to buy groceries. If your family receives SNAP, the Pandemic EBT benefits will be added to the EBT card you already use for SNAP. If your family does not receive SNAP, an EBT card will be mailed to you. Even though Pandemic EBT uses the same type of card as SNAP, Pandemic EBT is NOT SNAP benefits and is not considered in a public charge test.



# When will I receive Pandemic EBT benefits?

If your family already receives SNAP, you can expect benefits by the end of May. For families that receive free and reduced price school meals, you can expect benefits by mid-June. Some families that are newly certified could receive benefits as late as July.

## What do I do to get Pandemic EBT?

**Many Families will automatically get Pandemic EBT.**

**Already get SNAP?** The extra money will be loaded on your Oregon Trail EBT card automatically.

**Don't have SNAP, but already qualify for free or reduced school meals?** A new EBT card will be automatically mailed to you with instructions. Make sure your school has your updated mailing address. **If your whole school gets free meals, you will qualify too.** Even though Pandemic EBT uses the same type of card as SNAP, Pandemic EBT is **NOT SNAP benefits and is not considered in a public charge test.**

**Never received SNAP or free and reduced price school meals before?** A simple way to access the P-EBT benefit is by applying for free school meals here: [www.ode.state.or.us/apps/frlapp](http://www.ode.state.or.us/apps/frlapp).

Receiving SNAP benefits can also qualify you, here is how to apply:

<https://govstatus.egov.com/or-dhs-benefits>. You will automatically be given Pandemic EBT benefits starting the month you're approved for either free school meals or SNAP.

## Who do I contact if I didn't get the additional benefit?

If you did not receive these benefits but believe you qualify, please contact [EBTSchoolmeals@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:EBTSchoolmeals@dhsosha.state.or.us)

Learn more about the free and reduced price meal benefits here: <https://oregonhunger.org/free-school-meals/>.

Learn more about food resources during the pandemic, including how to apply for SNAP and how to find school meal sites during closures: [oregonhunger.org/covid-19](http://oregonhunger.org/covid-19) or call 2-1-1

# Pandemic- Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for Parents/Guardians

May 5, 2020

## What is the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer?

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020, has provided additional funding available to families whose children would receive free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the COVID-19 school closures.

Similar to summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (S-EBT), the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) will provide additional funding on a per student basis for families to spend on qualifying food purchases in their community. P-EBT funds go directly to eligible children to bring food into their household. This program helps alleviate food insecurity and increase local spending at the same time.

## How does it work?

The Oregon Trail Card (EBT) system is used to provide funds to ALL eligible students. Existing Oregon Trail Card beneficiaries will have additional funds added to their cards. *Families who do not have a card already will receive one with a letter explaining the program.*

Households will receive benefits equivalent to one free lunch and one free breakfast for each eligible child – \$5.70 per normal school day for the months of March, April, May and June.

Benefits will be retroactive to March 16, 2020 for students who received free and reduced-price meals when schools closed. For newly eligible free or reduced-price meals or SNAP households, benefits will start at the beginning of the month they become eligible. Eligible families will receive the following for each child:

- \$69 for March
- \$126 in April
- \$120 in May
- \$69 in June

## How do I know if my child is eligible to receive P-EBT?

Eligible households includes

- An eligible child or children, who if not for the closure of their school during a public health emergency designation and due to concerns about a COVID-19 outbreak, would receive free or reduced-price school meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, as amended, and

- The child's school or district will be (or has been) closed for at least 5 consecutive days during a public health emergency designation and due to concerns about a COVID-19 outbreak.

### Do I need to apply for P-EBT?

No, Individuals do not need to apply for P-EBT. If your child is currently receiving free or reduced priced lunches at a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or are currently receiving Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP benefits) you will receive this benefit automatically. The Oregon Department of Education is partnering with local school districts to obtain student specific information.

### What if my child currently attends a school that is participating in the NSLP but has not been determined as eligible for free or reduced price lunches?

Oregon families who have experienced income loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic and may have become eligible for free or reduced-price school meals can [apply online](#). Once the application has been submitted, please contact your child's school district nutrition service department for more information.

### What if my child does not attend a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program?

- The funding for Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer is specific to participants for who if not for the closure of their school during a public health emergency designation and due to concerns about a COVID-19 outbreak, would receive free or reduced-price school meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, as amended, and
- The child's school or district will be (or has been) closed for at least 5 consecutive days during a public health emergency designation and due to concerns about a COVID-19 outbreak.

### What if I believe my child qualifies for P-EBT benefits but I do not receive an Oregon Trail Card or funding on my existing card?

If you believe your child is an eligible child, ODE CNP encourages families to contact the Department of Human Services for more information.

As of May 5, 2020 ODE CNP is working in close partnership with the department of Human Services. Contact information will be added to this document as soon as it becomes available. In the interim, please visit the [Department of Human Services COVID-19 webpage](#).

### What if I receive the P-EBT benefits and I do not want to accept them?

The program is optional and is supported through the Oregon Trail card system. This is an opt-in program, requiring activation of the Oregon Trail card. Families who do not wish to participate may destroy the cards. Any funds not used are returned to the state.