

Dear Families,

Due to school closures related to COVID-19, your children may be eligible for food assistance called Pandemic EBT (P-EBT): Emergency School Meals Program. This program is administered by the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS).

P-EBT provides families with funds to make up for the cost of school lunches missed during the school closures. This benefit is for ALL children between the ages of 5 and 18 in Washington who receive free or reduced-price school meals. DSHS will use a family's free or reduced-price meal status to confirm eligibility for P-EBT upon receipt of an application.

If your family does not receive Basic Food, **you must apply with DSHS for P-EBT if you want to receive the funds.** The application will be open by June 30. There are two ways to apply:

- Go to: [www.WashingtonConnection.org](http://www.WashingtonConnection.org), or
- Call DSHS at (877) 501-2233

Every eligible child may receive **up to a maximum of \$399** of P-EBT. These benefits will be on an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card which is used like a debit card to buy groceries. Immigration status does not matter for P-EBT – it is not Basic Food and will not count in a public charge test. Children are allowed to get free meals from school and community sites and get P-EBT at the same time – they are separate programs.

**Role of the Issaquah School District:**

If your student(s) are not currently qualified for free or reduced-price meals you may fill out an application by June 30th here: <https://issaquah.strataapps.com/> or by contacting the Food Service office at (425) 837-5064 to have a paper application mailed.

We want to make sure all of our students stay healthy and grow strong.

Sincerely,

Nancy Beltz  
Food Service Supervisor  
[beltzn@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:beltzn@issaquah.wednet.edu)



# Pandemic EBT (P-EBT): Emergency School Meals Program

## Get help buying groceries while schools are closed

Does your child receive free or reduced-price school meals or does your child's school provide all meals free?

**YES**

**NO**

Do you receive Basic Food benefits?

**YES**

**NO**

**You will automatically receive P-EBT on your EBT Card.**

Benefits will be added to your EBT card by June 30.

**You need to apply for P-EBT by visiting [WashingtonConnection.org](http://WashingtonConnection.org) or by calling 877-501-2233.**

Your EBT card will arrive in the mail within 10-days of applying (application will open by June 30).

**Call your local school to apply for free/reduced-price school meals and then apply for P-EBT**

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Students going to a K-12 school that offers a school lunch program during the school year; AND

- Is eligible for free or reduced-price school meals; OR
- Is attending a school where meals are free for all students

### CAN IMMIGRANT HOUSEHOLDS APPLY?

Yes. Using P-EBT benefits does not count as a public charge. P-EBT does not change a parent or child's immigration status. P-EBT replaces school meals and are for all families that receive free and reduced-price school meals.

### WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

For children who received free or reduced-price meals when schools closed in March, each family will get \$399 per child. For families that enrolled in Basic Food or applied for school meal benefits after schools closed, each child will get less than that. The value depends on when you applied for food assistance.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Applications for P-EBT must be completed by August 31st or before the start of the 2020-2021 school year—whichever is later.
- If you need help understanding your eligibility or how to apply for benefits, see the Frequently Asked Questions at [k12.wa.us/PEBT](http://k12.wa.us/PEBT) or call Department of Social and Health Services at 877-501-2233.

Your benefits card will look like this:



Washington Office of Superintendent of  
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