

A background photograph of a female teacher with short dark hair and glasses, wearing a white t-shirt, sitting on the floor and reading a book to two young students. The students are also sitting on the floor, looking at the book. They are in a classroom setting with bookshelves filled with books and blue storage bins in the background.

Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) Program

AGENDA

■ PANDEMIC EBT

- Overview
- Survey & Timeline

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PANDEMIC EBT OVERVIEW

- Primary Citations
 - Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)
 - Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act
 - Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021
- Joint effort with Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
- Oversight provided by Food Nutrition Services (FNS)
- Purpose – to provide benefits to students who would have received food services when attending school in-person.

PANDEMIC EBT OVERVIEW

■ Phases

• Phase I

- 2019-2020 School Year (closed Sept 30, 2020)
- All students eligible for free/reduced lunches received benefits due to state school closures.
- Parent/guardian required to apply for benefits.
- TEA used PEIMS Summer data to determine eligibility.
- Minimal outreach to local education agencies (LEAs).

PANDEMIC EBT OVERVIEW

- Phase II
 - 2020-2021 School Year
 - State plan was approved on March 22, 2021
 - Campus must be closed, provide reduced on-campus instruction, and/or have students attending virtually for five consecutive days to be eligible.
 - Students must attend a campus that meets the eligibility and also be eligible for free/reduced lunches or attend a CEP/P2 campus.
 - Student Benefit Issuance
 - Students on SNAP will receive direct-issued benefits
 - For students not on SNAP, their parent/guardian will need to apply via an HHSC application.
 - HHSC will use PEIMS Fall data and new LEA survey to determine eligibility. **LEA outreach will be required for students TEA is unable to verify.**
 - Survey will only be sent to LEAs with approved NSLP campuses.

PANDEMIC EBT OVERVIEW

- Phase III
 - 2021-2022 School Year
 - Program has been extended throughout the public health emergency.
 - Requirements are still being defined by FNS.

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PANDEMIC EBT SURVEY & TIMELINE

- Survey will collect the following information for each campus at the LEA:
 - Child Nutrition Director contact information
 - Was campus eligibility met?
 - When was the campus eligibility met? MM/DD/YYYY
 - For each eligible month, provide the number of days per week that most are receiving remote/virtual instruction. The survey is asking LEAs to select one week per month with no holidays.

PANDEMIC EBT SURVEY & TIMELINE

- Wednesday, April 7th – TAA and Survey released
- Friday, April 23rd – Surveys due to TEA
- Monday, April 26th – TEA must provide survey data to HHSC
- May 2021 – Application will open for parents to apply.

What happens if survey is not received? **Students will not receive benefits.**

TEA

Questions

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