

District of Columbia Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) Program Amendment 2 for School Year 2020-2021

The District of Columbia (District) is requesting to issue retroactive P-EBT benefits to eligible students for the period of the P-EBT program running from March 2020 of School Year (SY) 2019-2020 through September 30, 2020 of SY 2020-2021.

As outlined in the District's September 18, 2020 P-EBT plan amendment, approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) on September 22, 2020, the District issued P-EBT benefits for SY 2020-2021 through September 30, 2020, only to eligible students who already had been issued P-EBT during SY 2019-2020 or who were receiving active SNAP benefits, and who remained enrolled in a qualifying school in SY 2020-2021.

The District has identified a total of 11,858 students who were eligible for P-EBT in SY 2020-2021 through September 30, 2020 but did not receive P-EBT benefits yet due to errors or missing information at the time of issuing September benefits.

Additionally, the District has 3,479 students eligible for March through June 2020 of SY 2019-2020 but could not be paid due to lack or discrepancy of the student's address information. Some of them now have updated address information we can use to issue benefits.

Lastly, based on the FNS's P-EBT guidance published on February 1, 2021, the District intends to apply the new, higher benefit rate back to the beginning of SY 2020-2021. The District plans to issue additional benefits retroactively to all eligible students: those who received benefits in September and those who will receive benefits retroactively for August and September of SY 2020-2021 once USDA approves this amendment. The District will process this adjustment through a separate issuance after completing all of the retroactive payments to minimize confusion and errors.

The District is requesting to amend our September 18, 2020 approved P-EBT plan for SY 2020-2021 through September 30, 2020 to issue P-EBT benefits to the following groups.

1. SY2019-2020 March ~ June Benefits

This group includes students eligible during the Spring of SY 2019-2020, but who could not be paid because their address information was invalid or unreliable. Some of these cases now have updated address information since the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), the District's education agency, provided DHS with updated address information for students who continued to be eligible in SY 2020-2021. Additionally, some parents made contact with DHS to verify and confirm their current address. All of these cases will need new EBT cards unless they have active SNAP cases as recent applicants.

We estimate that 2,580 students in 2,565 households will be paid for a total of \$992,084.70 in P-EBT benefits for SY 2019-2020 in this group.

2. SY2020-2021 August & September Benefits

Group 2A – Paid for SY19-20 Only

This group includes eligible and paid students during the Spring of SY 2019-2020, but who could not be paid for August and September even though they continue to be eligible in SY2020-2021. They could not be paid in September primarily because their SNAP case status changed: for example, a student paid through an active SNAP case for SY 2019-2020 was no longer in an active SNAP case as of September. Some students were not included in our September transaction file due to other errors associated with a household information change. The District can now update and confirm necessary case information for many of these cases. About half of these cases will need new EBT cards.

We estimate that 3,341 students in 2,742 households will be paid for a total of \$448,612.30 in P-EBT benefits for SY 2020-2021 in this group.

Group 2B – Eligible but Not Paid for SY19-20 (and SY20-21)

This group includes students who were eligible but could not be paid during the Spring of SY 2019-2020 due to their address information issues. The District can now update and confirm necessary case information for many of these cases. About half of these cases will need new EBT cards. It should be noted that most students in this group also meet the criteria of Group 1, who can be paid for SY2019-2020. They are included in this group again as part of the SY2020-2021 benefit payment population. As described above, DHS now has updated address information for this group; their August and September benefits will be issued subsequently after SY2019-2020 benefits are issued. They will receive new EBT cards when SY2019-2020 benefits get issued. Thus, they would not need new EBT cards for SY2020-2021 benefit issuance.

We estimate that 2,432 students in 2,417 households will be paid for a total of \$320,811.56 in P-EBT benefits for SY 2020-2021 in this group.

Group 2C – Newly Eligible in SY20-21 but Not Paid (No Active EBT Accounts)

This includes students who had been identified to be eligible for SY2020-2021 as of September but who did not have existing EBT accounts: they became newly eligible for P-EBT and did not have active SNAP cases. Thus, they could not be paid under the District's previous amendment: the District issued P-EBT benefits only to the households with active EBT accounts either from active SNAP cases or from SY2019-2020 P-EBT benefit issuance. As a result, many students eligible were not included in the September payment batch. The District can now issue their P-EBT benefits. A majority in this group will need new EBT cards.

We estimate that 4,587 students in 4,000 households will be paid for a total of \$603,070.18 in P-EBT benefits for SY 2020-2021 in this group.

Group 2D – SY20-21 Eligibility Determination Delayed

This group includes students whose P-EBT eligibility for SY 2020-2021 was not identified before the September transaction and could not be paid in September. The DHS received an updated list from OSSE in December. The updated list includes many new students eligible for August and September of SY2020-2021 and whose eligibility was retroactively identified. The District can now issue their P-EBT benefits. A majority in this group will need new EBT cards.

We estimate that 1,498 students in 1,300 households will be paid for a total of \$196,058.02 in P-EBT benefits for SY 2020-2021 in this group.

In sum, we estimate 11,858 students in 10,459 households will be paid for a total of \$1,156,552.06 in P-EBT benefits for August and September of SY 2020-2021 in Group 2 (A~D).

3. SY2020-2021 August & September Benefit Adjustment to Reflect Benefit Rate Increase

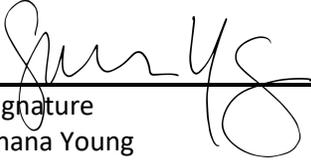
Based on the recent USDA announcement to increase the P-ETB benefit daily rate, students who received P-EBT benefits for August and September in the District will be eligible to receive additional benefits for this period. Students eligible but who have not been paid yet will be qualified to receive P-EBT benefits calculated based on the new rate. However, the District needs time and effort to apply the new benefit rate to process this change accurately. Applying the new benefit rate to the retroactive payment population first while students paid in September received their benefits based on the previous benefit rate may confuse customers and pose a risk to trigger unintended errors. Therefore, the District plans to issue retroactive payments for Group 2 based on the previous benefit rate, and issue additional benefits -- \$0.96 per day per student, the difference between the previous rate (\$5.86) and new rate (\$6.82) -- to every eligible student at once through a separate issuance schedule.

This group will include 58,668 students from 38,773 households who have been paid to date for August and September and 11,858 students from 10,657 households who will be paid retroactively. In total, 70,526 students from 49,232 households will be eligible to receive additional benefits for a total of \$1,533,707.20, an average of \$21.75 per student, for August and September as a result of the P-EBT benefit increase.

Estimated Population of P-EBT Benefit Retroactive Payments and Issuance Schedule

Benefit Coverage School Year	Eligibility & Payment		Reason Not Paid	Estimated Total Retroactive Benefit Issuance				Planned Issue Date	
	SY19-20	SY20-21		# of Households	# of Students	Estimated Benefit Total	Need to Issue New Cards		
1. SY19-20	Eligible but Not Paid	N/A	Address information was invalid or unreliable.	2,565	2,580	\$992,084.70	2,565	2/28 - 3/6	
2. SY20-21 (\$5.86 per Day)	A	Eligible and Paid	Eligible but Not Paid	SNAP case status changed from Spring to September.	2,742	3,341	\$448,612.30	1,371	3/7 - 3/14
	B	Eligible but Not Paid	Eligible but Not Paid	Address information was invalid or unreliable.	2,417	2,432	\$320,811.56	N/A	3/15 - 3/16
	C	Not Eligible	Eligible but Not Paid	No active EBT accounts and no Address information available	4,000	4,587	\$603,070.18	3,500	3/17 - 3/23
	D	Not Eligible	Eligible but Not Paid	Eligibility has been identified after September.	1,300	1,498	\$196,058.02	1,300	3/24 - 3/30
	Total SY20-21 Aug-Sep Retroactive Payments (SY20-21)				10,459	11,858	\$1,568,552.06	6,171	3/7 - 3/30
3. SY20-21 Benefit Adjustment (+\$.96 per Day)	A	Has been paid to date (2/2/2021)		38,773	58,668	\$1,275,835.20	N/A	3/31 - 4/5	
	B	Will be paid retroactively upon approval of Amendment (Group 2 A-D above)		10,459	11,858	\$257,872.00	N/A	3/31 - 4/5	
	Total SY20-21 Aug-Sep Benefit Adjustment				49,232	70,526	\$1,533,707.20	N/A	3/31 - 4/5
Grand Total						\$4,094,343.96	8,736		

Signature and title of requesting SNAP and Student Nutrition State Agency Officials:



 Signature
 Shana Young
 Interim State Superintendent of Education
 Office of the State Superintendent of Education



 Signature
 Stephanie Bloch Newman on behalf of Anthea Seymour
 Administrator
 Economic Security Administration

Date of Request: February 3, 2021