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SUMMER ELECTRONIC BENEFITS TRANSFER (S-EBT)

An overview of the program, benefit issuance and data collection process for summer 2026.

KATIE MCCURDY, NSLP Program Consultant, Office of Nutrition, Department of Education and Workforce.

MELISSA BALBAUGH, Director of Customer Service and Support, The Management Council.

Please note that State of Ohio and Ohio Department of Education and Workforce policy prohibits the use of external AI tools during our meetings. For these reasons, we cannot permit your outside AI tool (notetaking bots etc.) to be used. We appreciate your understanding and apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Should you try to utilize an AI Chat Bot, please disable it at this time.



WHAT IS SUMMER EBT?



- Collaboration between multiple state agencies.
- Provides a monetary benefit to eligible children during summer months while school meals are not being served.
- Assist in closing the hunger gap for school age children.

WHAT IS SUMMER EBT?



- One issuance for the summer of 2026 in the amount of \$120 per eligible child.
- Benefits will begin being issued by June.
 - Households may not receive benefits for all children in the same issuance month.
- Current SNAP recipients should receive benefits on their existing Ohio Direction card.
- Eligible households not currently receiving SNAP benefits will have funds loaded to last year's Summer EBT card.
- Newly eligible students will receive a new card in the mail with their benefits loaded.

WHO IS AUTOMATICALLY ELIGIBLE?



Children Ages 6-18 receiving SNAP, Ohio Works First (OWF) during the time frame of July 1, 2025-August 14, 2026.



Medicaid will also share children participating in Medicaid that meet income criteria for free/reduced meals for the same time frame.



Schools that participate in the National School Lunch (NSLP) or School Breakfast Program (SBP) will share current year free/reduced price certified students.



Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and Provision 2 non base year schools cannot submit any student without a current year free/reduced price meal certification.

ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

- Free or reduced-price meal certified students enrolled in a National School Lunch Program school at any time in the 2025-2026 school year.
 - Includes graduating students and withdrawn students unless evidence of out of state school enrollment.
- Submit all school year 2025-2026 enrolled students. There will be a column on submission file to indicate if the student is eligible for free/reduced meals.
 - If school has fully virtual/online kids that do not have access to school meals, they would not be included in your submission.
 - Fully virtual or online children will automatically be certified for benefits if they are eligible through SNAP, OWF or Medicaid and will be streamline certified to receive benefits.

ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

- Preschool Students
 - If your district provides NSLP or SBP meals to pre-k programs then these students would also be submitted as enrolled with the district and the appropriate F,R,N status indicated in the data submission for benefit issuance.
 - If your district has a Pre-K program but these students don't have access to meals under NSLP or SBP, then they would not be included in your enrollment file.
 - This would include Pre-K programs that receive meals under CACFP
- Head Start Programs
 - Head Start students are categorically eligible for free meals under NSLP, however, if the school oversees a head start program that does not have access to meals under NSLP or SBP, then they would not be included in the district's enrollment file.

ELIGIBLE STUDENTS AT CEP AND P2 SCHOOLS

- Submit all school year 2025-2026 enrolled students. There will be a column on submission file to indicate if the student is eligible for free/reduced meals. CEP and Provision 2 Schools must only indicate students with a current year eligibility certified by:
 - The direct certification process or students whose eligibility was determined through direct certification extension of household benefits.
 - Categorically eligible students: Head Start, Migrant, Homeless, Runaway students and Foster students with current year court documentation.
 - Head Start students with access to school meals.
- All households not certified via the above methods should be directed to apply using the statewide Summer EBT online application at sebt.ohio.gov/apply/

ELIGIBLE STUDENTS AT CEP AND P2 SCHOOLS

- If district/school utilizes the Ohio Household Income Form, these forms cannot be used for Summer EBT eligibility determination.
- Schools should communicate to households that were not identified via direct certification or otherwise categorically eligible (foster, homeless etc.) that the online application is available at sebt.ohio.gov/apply/
 - Template letters are available for districts in the download forms section of the Claims Reimbursement and Reporting System (CRRS)

STATEWIDE SUMMER EBT APPLICATION

- Can access via website sebt.ohio.gov/apply
- Similar to a free/reduced meal application.
- One application per household.
- Applications received after August 14th will be used to determine eligibility for 2027 Summer EBT benefits



STATEWIDE SUMMER EBT APPLICATION

- Who will use this application?
 - Households attending CEP or Provision 2 schools not direct certified, extended a direct certification benefit or otherwise categorically eligible for free or reduced meals.
 - Households who filled out the Ohio Household Income Form for their district and meet the free/reduced meal certification.
 - Households with children who attend a school that collects free/reduced price meal applications, but the household did not apply for these benefits and believe they would qualify for Summer EBT benefits (would expect this to be very rare).
 - Households who move into a school after the file has been submitted for 2026.

STATEWIDE SUMMER EBT APPLICATION

- Who will **not** use this application?
 - Fully virtual or homeschool students;
 - Children already certified in school year 2025-2026 for free/reduced price meal benefits;
 - Children on SNAP, OWF, or income eligible on Medicaid anytime between July 1, 2025 – August 14, 2026
 - If on Medicaid and unsure if you are income eligible, go to sebt.ohio.gov and use the "check income eligibility" button at the bottom of the page.

CHECK INCOME ELIGIBILITY

SUMMER EBT BENEFIT ISSUANCE

- A letter will be mailed when funds are applied to issued or existing card.
- New Cards with SUN Bucks branding will be issued to households that request replacement cards or newly eligible children.
 - A card will be mailed for each child
 - Will be in a plain white envelope
 - Instructions for how to use the card will be included, a copy of the enclosed instructions (BuckSlip) in both English and Spanish will be made available on the about page of the Summer EBT website: [About Summer EBT – Summer EBT](#)
 - Must create a 4-digit PIN when activating card
 - Self-created PIN
 - Can't use the same number twice, ex: 2025
 - Can't use any consecutive numbers, ex: 2034



OH Summer EBT BuckSlip (English)



OH Summer EBT BuckSlip (en Español)

SUMMER EBT BENEFIT ISSUANCE

- Benefits will expire 122 days after they have been issued.
 - Note: expiration is based on date of issuance, not last transaction date as it is for SNAP benefits
 - Benefits must be spent within 121 days of issuance date
- The approval notice will clearly state the date benefits will expire (122 days after issuance).



USING SUMMER EBT BENEFITS

- SEBT benefits can be used at the same retailers as the Ohio Direction Card.
- Funds can be used to purchase fruit, vegetables, meat, dairy, seafood, non-alcoholic beverages, canned foods, and other grocery items at major retailers or online.



USING SUMMER EBT BENEFITS

- Highly recommend using the lock and unlock feature for the S-EBT card when not using to prevent any possible fraud.
- Additional information on using benefits can be found on the JFS 07501 “Program Enrollment & Benefit Information” form.



Summer EBT Data



Melissa Balbaugh
Director
Customer Service and Support

Summer EBT Portal

- Upload files at <https://sebt.ohio.gov>
- Login access provided for Food Service Directors, EMIS Coordinators, Superintendents
 - Need IRN and district email address
 - Verification code sent to the email
 - Superintendent can name other staff if needed (good through June 30, 2026)
 - Role of EMIS Coordinator

Portal Homepage

[District Login](#)



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Apply for
2026 Summer EBT Benefits

Students attending Ohio schools can apply for benefits online.

[APPLY FOR 2026 SUMMER EBT](#)

Apply now until August 14, 2026

District Login

If you get an error message that the IRN and Email do not match, you are not listed as the superintendent, FSD or EMIS Coordinator in our system. If you are in one of these roles, please email support@ohiosunbucks.org or call 866-244-0071, option 1.

District Login



Department of
Education & Workforce
Department of
Job & Family Services



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IRN Session was ended.

Enter your IRN number and email address to begin a session.

IRN Number

Email Address

SUBMIT

Validation Token

District Login



Department of
Education & Workforce
Department of
Job & Family Services



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A token has been sent to *melissa.balbaugh@managementcouncil.org*. Please allow sufficient time for delivery as it may be affected by network congestion. If you do not find the email in your inbox, be certain check your spam folder.

Please enter the token below. The token is valid for 15 minutes from when it was issued.

Example: 558b208f088b2682bbe6bda9241dce9a

Email from: support@ohiosunbucks.org
Email subject: IRN Session Token

Enter Token

VALIDATE TOKEN

Logged in User

melissa.balbaugh@managementcouncil.org (888999) [END SESSION](#)



[SUBMIT DATA](#) [REQUEST REPORT](#) [INFO FOR DISTRICTS](#) [INFO FOR FAMILIES](#) [FAQS](#) [HELP & SUPPORT](#)

You have started a new IRN session.

● IRN Session Started

[END SESSION](#)

Melissa Balbaugh

Warren Township Test SD (888999)

Superintendent

[VIEW DELEGATE ACCESS](#)

Action Items

Submit SEBT Data

Submit your district's data for the current term.

[SUBMIT DATA](#)

SEBT Info for Districts

melissa.balbaugh@managementcouncil.org (888999) [END SESSION](#)



Department of
Education & Workforce
Department of
Job & Family Services



[SUBMIT DATA](#) [REQUEST REPORT](#) [INFO FOR DISTRICTS](#) [INFO FOR FAMILIES](#) [FAQS](#) [HELP & SUPPORT](#)

Why Do We Need Summer Programs?

Many children face hunger and food insecurity during the summer when they lose access to school meals. Children need good nutrition to grow, learn, and thrive. Ohio is implementing new ways to address summer hunger, including Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (Summer EBT) also known as Sun Bucks. The USDA's summer nutrition programs benefit students in multiple ways:

- **Provide consistent nutrition access.** For many students, the meals provided at school are the most nutritious meals they eat. Expanding options for accessing healthy meals and groceries in the summer offers families more options to ensure their children are nourished year-round.
- **Reduce summer hunger.** Together with in-person summer meal sites, Summer EBT and the new options for rural areas can dramatically reduce summertime child hunger nationwide.
 - Summer EBT is proven to reduce hunger. **Research shows** that providing families with summer grocery benefits can reduce child hunger by 33 percent. ¹
- **Offset food costs.** Summer EBT helps offset higher food costs. Families receive \$120 per eligible child during summer on EBT cards to buy food at grocery stores and other food retailers authorized to accept Summer EBT.

What is Summer EBT?

The Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer Program for Children (Summer EBT), also known as SUN Bucks, is new in summer 2024. Summer EBT provides grocery benefits to low-income families with school-aged children when schools are closed for the summer. Summer EBT benefits will either be loaded to a household's Ohio Direction

Resources For School Districts:

- [Summer EBT Outreach Toolkit | Food and Nutrition Service \(usda.gov\)](#)
- [SY2025 Webinar \(PDF\)](#)

Resources are currently being updated. Please check back frequently for the 2026 resources.

Loading (PDF)

- [Communications Plan for Schools](#)
- [Guidance for CEP Districts](#)
- [Guidance for Non-CEP Districts](#)
- [SEBT Letter From CEP Schools to Households About State Application \(English\)](#)

Support

- Submit questions through the support form, email or calling 866-244-0071, opt 1
- Click “End Session” to log out of the SEBT portal

Help & Support

Need help or having some trouble with something? Let us know.

Phone: [866-244-0071](tel:866-244-0071) Opt 1

Email: support@ohiosunbucks.org

Create a Support Case

Complete the form below to create a case with our support team and we'll respond to your inquiry as soon as possible.

District Name (Required)

Warren Township Test SD

IRN (Required)

888999

Name (Required)

Melissa Balbaugh

16 of 80 max characters

Email (Required)

melissa.balbaugh@managementcouncil.org

Your Inquiry (Required)

SUBMIT

Timeline

Now	Portal available for student applications
April 1	Portal available for districts to begin loading data
May 1	Portal closes for district data loading
June – Sept	Benefits received by students
August 14	Portal closes for student applications for Summer EBT

**Schools will only submit one data file for 2026.
Students that enroll after the file has been submitted may
apply online.**

Submitting Data

melissa.balbaugh@managementcouncil.org (888999) [END SESSION](#)



[SUBMIT DATA](#) [REQUEST REPORT](#) [INFO FOR DISTRICTS](#) [INFO FOR FAMILIES](#) [FAQS](#) [HELP & SUPPORT](#)

Submit District Enrollment Data

The district enrollment file is the full enrollment for for a district or school. The file should include all students who were enrolled at any point through the school year. Students which have withdrawn and re-enrolled should have the most recent enrollment date and/or most recent withdrawal date.

Districts may submit all buildings on a single enrollment file.



NOTE: Changes to the *Enrollment Data Template* and *Data Dictionary* have been made for SY2026. Please be certain to download the new documents below. Uploading previous years' templates will result in an error and a rejected submission.

[DOWNLOAD DATA TEMPLATE](#)

[DOWNLOAD DATA DICTIONARY](#)

Upload District Enrollment Data File For Warren Township Test SD (888999)

Please provide a valid email address to receive notifications regarding processing status or errors notifications with the submitted data.

Sorry. This form is no longer available.

Data File

- **ONLY 1 file will be submitted for 2026**
- Schools with an ITC data agreement for SEBT may work with your ITC to get a full enrollment file
 - File must contain any student that was enrolled through the 2025-2026 school year
- Free Reduced Eligible
 - Schools must mark each student in the enrollment file as F, R, or N
 - This cannot be the economically disadvantaged EMIS reporting code

Enrollment File Data Fields

- Free Reduced Eligible *
- District IRN *
- Building IRN *
- SSID *
- Child Last Name *
- Child First Name *
- Child Middle Initial
- Child's Date of Birth *
- Child's Gender *
- Parent Last Name *
- Parent First Name *
- Parent Middle Initial
- Primary (Residential) Address *
- Primary City *
- Primary State *
- Primary Zip 5 *
- Primary Zip 4
- Mailing Address *
- Mailing City *
- Mailing State *
- Mailing Zip 5 *
- Mailing Zip 4
- Phone Area Code
- Phone Number
- Enrollment Date *
- Withdraw Date (if applicable)

Enrollment File SSID Field for Nonpublic Schools

- If you have a student's SSID, please enter it in the data file
- If the student does not have an SSID, use the school IRN plus a 3- or 4-digit increment at the end
 - Example: School IRN is 888999
Students will increment starting at 888999001 or 888999100
- If using the IRN plus other numbers, be sure to maintain those numbers for each student if corrections are made

Data Report

- Emailed to the person submitting the file
- If correcting data and resubmitting, the subsequent report will only list students that were loaded on the second submission

Summer EBT Load Submission Report								5/30/2025 4:06:20 PM
District:								Filename: S-EBT_Eligible_Students_Submit-05-30-2025.csv
Import ID	Date Loaded	Students Processed	New Students	Students Not Processed In	Enrollment	Total Loaded Student		
eb858f21-7daf-4767-9a2f-0c895926abca	5/30/2025	36627	48	6	52670	36630		
Records Processed Outcome:								
Outcome	District IRN	Child Last Name	Child First Name	Issue	Severity	Building IRN		
Not Loaded				Residence State or Zip Not Ohio	Fatal	111111		
				DOB Invalid or Age < 3 or > 22	Fatal	2222222		
				Duplicate Student	Fatal	333333		
Loaded				Age between 19 & 22	Informational	444444		
				Area Code or Phone Number Invalid	Informational	555555		
				Child First/Last Name 1 Character	Informational	666666		

Double Check Data Elements


- Special Characters
 - Name fields are only permitted to contain apostrophe, period and hyphen
 - Address field may only contain apostrophe, period, hyphen, comma, slash (/), and #
 - City may only contain period and hyphen
- Date of Birth format
 - mm/dd/yyyy
- Student address and guardianship
- Residential state must be Ohio
 - The state of the mailing address may be outside of Ohio if it is a border state


Data Considerations

- SNAP/EBT recipient records will be used over school records
 - Students on an EBT account will have benefits applied to that account, regardless of who is on the school submission
- Foster or change of guardianship
 - Cards for foster students should go with the student
 - Cards cannot be reissued if funds are spent by previous guardian
 - Contact support ASAP if you know there has been a recent change in guardianship
- Confirmation of payments
 - Please direct parents to contact support 866-244-0071, Opt 1 if they are questioning a student's benefit
 - District users can refer to the load report to confirm a student that was submitted

Check Funds Availability

[District Login](#)


 Department of Education & Workforce
Department of Job & Family Services



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Check Availability of Card Funds

This tool can be used to check if your student has been issued funds and when the funds are expunged, or expire.



Check Issued Funds Form

Check Funds

** All fields are required.*

Student First Name	Student Last Name	Student Date of Birth	Zip Code (Mailing Address)	<input type="button" value="CHECK FUNDS"/>
<input type="text" value="Ex: Susan"/>	<input type="text" value="Ex: Smith"/>	<input type="text" value="MM/DD/YYYY"/>	<input type="text" value="00000"/>	

SEBT Household Application

2026 Application For Summer EBT Benefits

Student Information

The following student information is required to complete the application. You may add multiple students to this application.

Student #1

First Name (required)	Middle	Last Name (required)	Suffix
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Jr, III, etc."/>

Date of Birth <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	SNAP Case Number	Ohio Works First (OWF) Case Number
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

MM/DD/YYYY format

District of Enrollment	School in District	Student Grade (In 2025-2026 School Year)
<input type="text" value="Enter 3 or more characters to search"/>	<input type="text" value="-- Select a building --"/>	<input type="text" value="Choose..."/>

ⓘ If the student's school is not listed, please know that schools that participate in the traditional NSLP will submit eligible students. Students attending schools that do not participate in the NSLP are not eligible for Summer EBT.

ⓘ Student Enrollment will be verified with the district selected. Your application may be denied if enrollment is not confirmed.

Student Sex	Student Status
<input type="radio"/> Male <input type="radio"/> Female	<input type="radio"/> Homeless <input type="radio"/> Migrant <input type="radio"/> Run-Away <input type="radio"/> Foster <input type="radio"/> None of these apply

Is the student an emancipated youth?
An emancipated minor is a minor who has been judicially emancipated from their parents, or has reached the age of majority and is therefore free from the custody and control of their parents.

Student is an emancipated youth

[ADD ANOTHER STUDENT](#)

Open Office Hours

- Thursdays in April 2pm – 3pm (2, 9,16,23,30)
- Tuesdays 9am – 10am (21 and 28)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89037033855>

Questions?

- Contact SEBT support
866-244-0071, Opt 1
support@ohiosunbucks.org
Support form on the portal at <https://sebt.ohio.gov>
- Contact the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce
Office of Nutrition
614-466-2945
1-800-808-6325
child.nutrition@education.ohio.gov
- Card Services
866-386-3071

QUESTIONS?

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