

Wednesday 28th of April 2021



Get more headlines like this via email

Feds Extend Summer Food Assistance to Low-Income Children



Families who qualify for Pandemic EBT will now receive up to \$381 this summer. (Nick Sherman/Flickr)



By Suzanne Potter - Producer, Contact

April 28, 2021

LANSING, Mich. - The U.S. Department of Agriculture is throwing a lifeline to students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches, by extending the [Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer program](#), known as PEBT, through the end of the summer. This means families will continue to get up to \$127 a month on their benefit card to buy groceries.

Bobby Dorigo Jones, director of public policy at the nonprofit [Michigan's Children](#), said at least one in 10 students in Michigan still faces food insecurity each week.

"It's a strain on young people's ability to grow when nutrition is hard to find," he said. "This will be one less nightmare for a lot of families in Michigan."

Families already in the program and those who are eligible for SNAP or food stamps will receive the benefits automatically on their card. People can apply for benefits on the [MI Bridges website](#). At some lower-income schools, the entire student body is eligible for P-EBT; check with your school district.

Dorigo Jones said the biggest challenge is making sure all those who face hunger over the summer actually access the benefits.

"The students who are most likely to continue to face that are disconnected from school - experiencing homelessness, foster care or migrant status," he said, "and the schools and our state need to invest in programs and services that can connect them."

He said the P-EBT cards especially are helpful to families when parents work during the day, or who lack the transportation to get the grab-and-go meals that schools are handing out.

Answers to frequently asked questions are online [here](#).

Citation: [P-EBT data](#)

Citation: [DHHS P-EBT FAQ](#)

Citation: [Michigan's Children](#)

Citation: [MI Bridges](#)

Best Practices

Get more headlines like this via email

Public News Service



[About PNS](#) [Media Facts](#) [Support Us](#) [Contact Us](#) [PNS Employment](#) [Mission/History](#)

[Best Practices](#) [Pitch Our Journalists](#)

Phone: 303.448.9105 Toll Free: 888.891.9416 Fax: 208.247.1830
Your trusted member and audience-supported news source since 1996
Copyright © 2021