

## Frequently Asked Questions for school districts to answer parent questions

### 1. What are SUN Bucks?

SUN Bucks, also referred to as summer EBT, is a new program that provides grocery benefits to help low-income families put meals on the table when schools are closed. Households will receive \$120 for each eligible school-aged child to buy groceries during the summer break.

### 2. Is SUN Bucks the same as P-EBT?

No, SUN Bucks is a new program that provides additional food assistance to eligible families with school-aged children during the summer months. The Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) program provided benefits to help families during the COVID-19 pandemic. It has now ended. **Some students who were eligible for P-EBT will not be eligible for SUN Bucks.** Eligibility for SUN Bucks is based on household income. Therefore, some families who received P-EBT because their child attended a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school will not receive SUN Bucks. Only those children who individually applied and were approved to receive free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program (NSLP/SBP), or who received SNAP, TANF or income-based Medicaid during the 2023-2024 school year, will automatically receive SUN Bucks. All others who attended a CEP school and may be income-eligible will need to apply when the application period opens later this summer.

### 3. Who is eligible for SUN Bucks?

School-aged children are eligible for Louisiana SUN Bucks if at any time between the period of July 1, 2023, through August 15, 2024:

- The child participated in SNAP, FITAP, KCSP, or income-based Medicaid, or
- The child was in foster care, or
- The child has been identified as homeless or migrant, or
- The student attends a school that offers the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), and the student was individually approved for free or reduced-price meals because the household's income meets the requirements for that program.

### 4. Will my child get SUN Bucks if they received P-EBT benefits?

Maybe. SUN Bucks may seem similar to Pandemic EBT, but is a separate program. Not every child who received P-EBT is eligible to receive SUN Bucks.

### 5. When will SUN Bucks be issued?

The SUN Bucks program will be rolled out in three phases beginning in late June 2024. The first phase will include children who received SNAP benefits during the 2023-2024 school year. These students qualify for streamlined certification and will be automatically enrolled. SUN Bucks benefits will be added to their existing SNAP Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card. They do not need to apply to the program. More information will follow about phases 2 and 3.

**6. Will my child's SUN Bucks benefits go on their P-EBT card?**

No. If your household does not have an existing SNAP EBT card, your child will be issued a new EBT card for SUN Bucks benefits.

**7. What do families need to do?**

- It is important that families ensure their mailing address is up-to-date on their SNAP, FITAP, KCSP and/or Medicaid case, and with their child's school or foster care worker. EBT cards will be sent to the mailing address that is on file.
- If a household has lost its SNAP EBT card, they should call 1-888-997-1117 to request a replacement now.

**8. Where can you use SUN Bucks?**

SUN Bucks work just like SNAP, with benefits loaded onto an EBT card. You can use your SUN Bucks to buy food like fruits, vegetables, meat, whole grains, and dairy at grocery stores, farmers' markets, and other places that accept SNAP benefits, including some online retailers.

**9. How long do you have to use SUN Bucks?**

SUN Bucks benefits must be used within 122 days of being loaded to your card. Any unused benefits on your card after 122 days will expire, regardless of whether or how often the card is used. Expired benefits cannot be replaced or put back on your card.

**10. Will homeschooled children receive SUN Bucks?**

Only homeschool or virtual school families that receive SNAP, FITAP, KCSP, or Medicaid are eligible to receive SUN Bucks.

**11. Will I receive one card for all children or separate cards for each eligible child?**

Non-SNAP households will receive one card per eligible child. Each card will be pre-loaded with the full \$120 benefit. The SUN Bucks for SNAP households will be loaded onto the family's SNAP EBT card.

**12. I no longer have our household's existing SNAP EBT card. How do I get a replacement?**

If you lost your household's SNAP EBT card or your SNAP case was recently closed, call 1-888-997-1117 to request a new card.

**13. Do I need to save my child's card from year to year?**

Yes. Eligible children who do not have existing SNAP EBT cards will receive an EBT card with their name on it. Please hold onto these cards for next summer.

**14. If my child attends a program with meals provided through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) am I still eligible for SUN Bucks?**

Yes, SUN Bucks eligibility is not affected by participation in other summer feeding programs. SUN Bucks is an extra benefit to help stretch your grocery budget when school is out for summer. You can use it even if your child gets free summer meals through other programs. You can call 1-866-3-HUNGRY or 1-877-8-HAMBRE (or text 914-342-7744 with the keyword “summer meals”) to find the free meal service location closest to you.

**15. Where can I get more program updates?**

The [SUN Bucks webpage](#) will be updated regularly with new information about the program. Visit [sunbucks.la.gov](http://sunbucks.la.gov) for the latest information, and follow DCFS on Facebook, Twitter/X and Instagram for updates.