



Virginia's P-EBT Program to Issue Benefits to Limited Households Under Revised Criteria for the 2021-2022 School Year

RICHMOND, VA (May 24, 2022) – [Virginia's Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer \(P-EBT\) program](#) will issue benefits for the 2021-2022 school year to students for specific COVID-related absences under revised eligibility requirements, as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture. Fewer households are expected to receive the benefit due to most students attending school in person and having access to school meals at no cost.

The [revised eligibility guidelines](#) require both a school and student to meet specific requirements. To be eligible to receive P-EBT benefits for the current school year, a student must:

- attend a P-EBT-eligible school and qualify for free or reduced-price school meals under the [National School Lunch Program](#) or attend a school that participates in the Community Eligibility Provision program.
- **AND** the student must also have participated in full-time, remote learning provided by the school divisions or been absent **due to a documented, COVID-related issue such as quarantine, illness or community transmission.**

[Eligible schools](#) must also have been closed or operating at reduced attendance for five consecutive days due to a COVID-19-related issue.

Benefits will be issued retroactively beginning May 25 to eligible students who missed school due to COVID-19 during the months of September through October 2021. The release of benefits for additional COVID-eligible absences will continue through June 24, 2022 in accordance with the approved issuance schedule. The amount of benefits will vary and are based on the number of days in which the eligible student was absent from school and met program requirements each month. Students enrolled in full-time, virtual schools such as Virtual Virginia do not meet USDA P-EBT eligibility requirements for the current school year.

Households with students are encouraged to visit PebtVA.com to learn more about the changes in eligibility requirements. The receipt of P-EBT benefits for previous school years does not guarantee eligibility for the 2021-2022 school year. Schools and students must meet all eligibility requirements, which will be determined by the information that each school/school district provides to VDSS.

Questions regarding P-EBT benefits should be directed to the P-EBT Call Center at (866) 513-1414 or (804) 294-1633 Monday - Friday from 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Households that do not meet eligibility requirements for the P-EBT program are encouraged to visit Commonhelp.virginia.gov to check eligibility for the federal [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program](#), text 'FOOD' to 304-304 to find a local Summer Meal Site, or contact [2-1-1 Virginia](#) to learn more about food resources in their local area.

About the Virginia Department of Social Services

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), one of the Commonwealth's largest government agencies, is comprised of approximately 2,000 state staff who proudly serve alongside more than 10,000 employees of 120 local departments of social services and community action agencies to deliver critical social services to Virginia's most vulnerable citizens. VDSS is committed to ensuring Virginians have access to the high-quality human services and resources needed to enhance their individual and collective well-being, and shape strong futures for themselves, their families and communities. The agency provides a wide range of services and resources in the areas of food and energy assistance, foster care and adoption, child support, and abuse and neglect prevention, among others. For more information, visit dss.virginia.gov.