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Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

May 3, 2024

(X) Action Required
(X) Informational

BULLETIN NO. 031-24 Child Nutrition Services

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents
School District Superintendents
School District Business Managers
School District Food Service Directors

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Summer EBT 2024

CONTACT: Leanne Eko, RD, SNS—Chief Nutrition Officer, Child Nutrition Services
360-725-0410, leanne.eko@k12.wa.us

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 ([P.L. 117-328](#)) authorized a permanent, nationwide Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (Summer EBT) program—also known as SUN Bucks—to support children who lose access to free and reduced-price school meals during the summer months. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently approved Washington’s Plan for Operations and Management for summer 2024.

The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), in partnership with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), is administering the Summer EBT (S-EBT) program in Washington state. Collaboration between these state agencies, local schools, and districts will ensure that Washington students receive this important benefit.

We appreciate Local Education Agency (LEA) efforts to provide meals to students during the school year and during the summer months. Students are eligible for S-EBT benefits whether or

not they participate in summer meal programs.

S-EBT Eligibility

Students eligible for S-EBT include:

- Students enrolled at any time during the 2023–24 school year at a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or School Breakfast Program (SBP) **and**
 - Students determined to be eligible for free or reduced-price school meals through direct certification or a school meal application **or**
 - Students enrolled at a school that operates the Community Eligibility Provision or Provision 2 non-base year and has been determined eligible through direct certification or a Family Income Survey.
- School aged (defined as 8 years to 18 years) and residing in a household receiving SNAP, TANF, or other federally means tested assistance programs approved by USDA.

Students that do not qualify by the above methods have the option to submit a S-EBT application through DSHS. Requirements for approval through a S-EBT application include:

- Confirmed to be enrolled at any time during the 2023–24 school year at a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or School Breakfast Program (SBP) **and**
- Meet the USDA school meals Income Eligibility Guidelines.

Approved Plans and Benefit Levels

S-EBT benefits will be issued to all eligible students as outlined above. The benefit amount is \$120 per student and will be made available on a 'SUN Bucks' card. Benefits are planned to be issued June–August.

Local Education Agency (LEA) Role

Upload Data

Information provided by LEAs will be used to identify eligible students. LEAs must upload student and school information into the S-EBT portal for students to receive S-EBT benefits. The portal will be open May 1–June 28, 2024. Instructions on how to upload the information will be provided to School Nutrition Departments.

Upload of eligible students must be completed in order for students to receive benefits. Data

compilation and upload must be completed by school staff that have the authority to access Meal Eligibility student information.

Share Information with Families

For full details and additional questions about S-EBT benefits, families can visit the [DSHS SUN Bucks webpage](#) or call the S-EBT Contact Center at (833) 543-3230 between 8 am and 5 pm Monday–Friday (except observed holidays). We encourage LEAs to share this information with families through communication channels such as social media, emails, and other outreach methods.

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Leanne Eko, RD, SNS—Chief Nutrition Officer, at 360–725–0410 or email leanne.eko@k12.wa.us. The OSPI TTY number is 360–664–3631.

This bulletin is also available on the [Bulletins](#) page of the OSPI website.

Tennille Jeffries-Simmons
Chief of Staff

Leanne Eko, RD, SNS
Chief Nutrition Officer
Child Nutrition Services

CR:sr

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1. **Mail:**
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. **Fax:** 833-256-1665 or 202-690-7442; or

Email: program.intake@usda.gov