

Updated FAQ 1.26.20

P-EBT Fall 2020 Issuance

1. **The fall issuance states only 5 consecutive days are required for student eligibility.**

Answer: The P-EBT rules, requirements and funding for the current issuance is different than the fall issuance. The current issuance has eligibility requirements for the school and the student.

School Eligibility

1. **What is the criteria for school and student eligibility?**

Answer: School eligibility must be determined first, then student eligibility is determined:

Eligibility at the school level, could have occurred anytime during the 2020-2021 school year:

- School is NSLP or CEP, AND
- School had a delayed opening of at least 5 consecutive days; OR
- School has been closed for at least 5 consecutive days; OR
- School offered a hybrid schedule (some students virtual and some in person, or all students partially virtual and partially in person).

AFTER SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY IS DETERMINED, THEN STUDENT ELIGIBILITY CAN BE DETERMINED AT THE INDIVIDUAL STUDENT LEVEL

Individual student eligibility:

- Student is eligible for free/reduced lunch under NSLP standards AND,
- Student has missed school due to quarantine, COVID-19 related illness or virtual (at home) learning.

Note: Students do not satisfy the free/reduced lunch element of P-EBT eligibility simply because the school is currently providing all meals for free under the SFSP or the NSLP's SSO.

2. What is DFR’s definition of a hybrid schedule?

Answer: A school offering a hybrid schedule due to COVID-19. Hybrid schedule allows students to participate in school via a virtual learning option including:

- Students attend school by last name,
- Students attend school by grade level,
- Students are attending school virtually due to quarantine,
- Students are attending school virtually due to isolation,
- Students are attending school virtually due to parental choice, or
- Students attend school both virtual and in person.

3. What are considered eligible days during the October-December quarter?

Answer: Once the school and student have both met the eligibility requirements (documented in the answer to question #2), the days the student was out due to quarantine, COVID-19 related illness, school closure or virtual learning are totaled. This total is the number of eligible days. Each student will have different totals depending on the number of days each student was not in school.

4. If my school does not normally offer a hybrid program but is offering this option to parents due to COVID-19, are these students eligible for P-EBT?

Answer: Yes. If your school offers a hybrid model because of COVID-19 to provide parents a choice to allow their students to remain at home for virtual learning these students are eligible on virtual learning days, as long as the students are eligible for free/reduced price meals under NSLP standards.

5. If my school is operating under the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) as a result of COVID-19, are my students eligible to receive P-EBT?

Answer: If your school is operating under the SFSP program because of COVID-19 and meets the following eligibility requirement,

- Participant of the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, or Community Eligibility Provision
- Students are eligible for free and reduced lunch under NSLP standards (refer to question #1 under the School Eligibility section for additional details),

then the students eligible to receive P-EBT.

6. **If my school does not participate in the NSLP but have students who are eligible for assistance with textbook fees, are they eligible for P-EBT?**

Answer: Your students would not be eligible for P-EBT. Schools must first be eligible and one of the requirements is the school participates in the NSLP. Secondly, P-EBT is for students that would miss the opportunity to receive and consume lunch at school.

Student Eligibility

1. **If my school is operating under the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) as a result of COVID-19, are my students eligible to receive P-EBT?**

Answer: If your school is operating under the SFSP program because of COVID-19 and meets the following eligibility requirement,

- Participant of the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, or Community Eligibility Provision
- Students are eligible for free and reduced lunch, then the students are eligible to receive P-EBT.

2. **What is the criteria for school and student eligibility?**

Answer: School eligibility must be determined first, then student eligibility is determined:

Eligibility at the school level, could have occurred anytime during the 2020-2021 school year:

- School is NSLP or CEP, AND
- School had a delayed opening of at least 5 consecutive days; OR
- School has been closed for at least 5 consecutive days; OR
- School offered a hybrid schedule (some students virtual and some in person, or all students partially virtual and partially in person).

AFTER SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY IS DETERMINED, THEN STUDENT ELIGIBILITY CAN BE DETERMINED AT THE INDIVIDUAL STUDENT LEVEL

Individual student eligibility:

- Student is eligible for free/reduced lunch under NSLP standards AND,
- Student has missed school due to quarantine, COVID-19 related illness or virtual (at home) learning.

Note: Students do not satisfy the free/reduced lunch element of P-EBT eligibility simply because the school provides all meals for free under the SFSP or the NSLP's SSO.

3. What is DFR's definition of a hybrid schedule?

Answer: A school offering a hybrid schedule due to COVID-19. Hybrid schedule allows students to participate in school via a virtual learning option including:

- Students attend school by last name,
- Students attend school by grade level,
- Students are attending school virtually due to quarantine,
- Students are attending school virtually due to isolation,
- Students are attending school virtually due to parental choice, or
- Students attend school both virtual and in person.

Issuance/Data Submission

4. If my school has not participated in the spring or fall issuance, is it possible to enroll for the January issuance?

Answer: Yes. If your school and students meet the eligibility requirements, when the window for reporting opens (January 4th -15th), you can submit all of your students that meet the criteria. Then P-EBT cards will be issued to those students.

5. What is the URL for the Department of Education single sign on portal to submit Student Data?

Answer: The single sign on portal is through the Indiana Department of Education. It is DFR's understanding that there are staff in each school district who are already authorized users. DFR does not have a link to this site.

Once the FSSA portal that will exist *within* the single sign on portal is available, all schools will receive a notification and link to begin uploading their documentation.

6. How do I determine student eligible days? Do I count every day the student is not in the building?

Answer: For example, in October, a student missed 4 days (non-consecutive), in November, student missed 5 days (non-consecutive) and December student missed 10 days (consecutive).

The eligible days are days a student has missed in person school due to quarantine, COVID-19 related illness or virtual (home) learning.

First, the school at some point during the 2020-2021 school year must meet the requirement of being closed for 5 consecutive days , have a delayed start, or offer a hybrid model (allow students to attend either virtual or in person).

Then, the student eligible days should be calculated. In the above example this student would have 19 eligible days that should be reported for the quarterly issuance.

7. What are the deadlines for data submission?

Answer: Please refer to the data collection schedule below. All dates are estimated and the tool will close at 12:00 AM EST on the last day of submission.

School Data Collection Timeframe	Issuance Month
January 4-15, 2021	End of February
April 5-16, 2021	April 30, 2021
July 5-16, 2021	July 31, 2021
TBD	September 30,2021

8. Some students were not included in the submission timeframe as identified above; can the missed students be re-submitted?

Answer: Yes, if a student(s) is missing from the data file, the individual(s) can be included in the next quarter’s data submission. Additional information will be forthcoming on how to capture missed students with the next quarter’s submission. P-EBT will end when the PHE ends, therefore, September 2021 is the last month for benefits and changes or corrections cannot be submitted after September 2021.