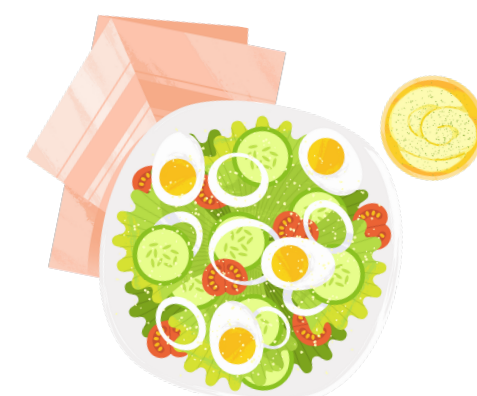
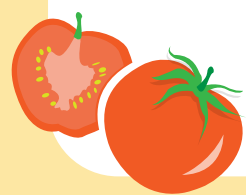
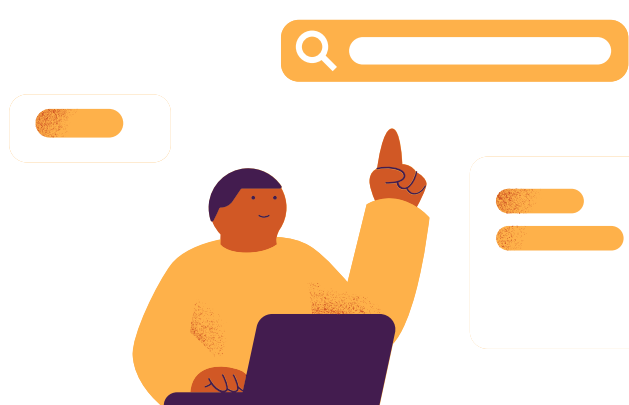


SUMMER ELECTRONIC BENEFITS TRANSFER (S-EBT)

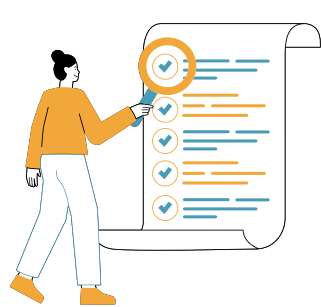


What is S-EBT?



S-EBT is a new, PERMANENT USDA program aimed at helping students purchase healthy food during the summer months when schools are not in session. Some may remember during the COVID outbreak that PSS administered a Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program. P-EBT laid some of the groundwork for S-EBT.

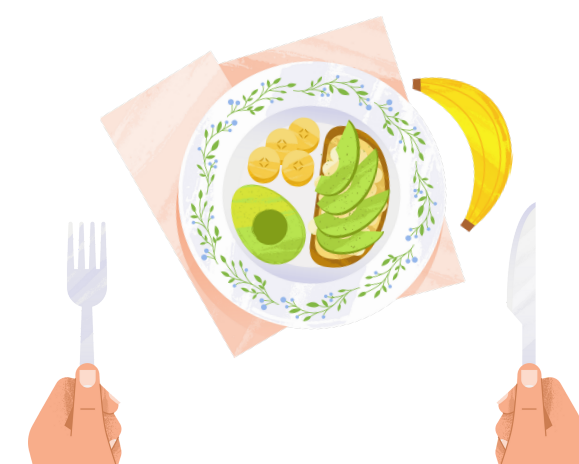
In the CNMI, the Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) and PSS Child Nutrition Program (CNP) will coordinate the distribution of S-EBT benefits. For 2024 S-EBT, USDA is waiving the application requirement for students residing in the territories.



Who is eligible for Summer 2024 EBT?

The CNMI will follow Board of Education (BOE) policy to define school-aged children. As per BOE policy, a school-aged child “turns 5 years old on or before September 30.” **For 2024 S-EBT eligibility, the child must have turned 5 years old on or before September 30, 2023.**

- All school-aged kids enrolled and attending K-12 schools that participate in the PSS school meals program are eligible.
- All school-aged kids up to the age of 17 receiving NAP benefits, regardless of enrollment, are eligible.



Who is **NOT** eligible for Summer 2024 EBT?

- Preschool children, including Head Start kids, unless they meet the NAP and/or age requirements noted above
- Kids not enrolled in K-12 schools participating in the school lunch program, which includes homeschooled kids who are not NAP recipients
- Kids 17 years or older who have dropped out of school during the current or previous school year and are not NAP recipients
- Kids who transfer or leave island before the end of the school year



How to make sure your child receives the S-EBT benefits:

The student information used to distribute S-EBT benefits will come from each school or school district’s student information system. In other words, the information input when the student registered for school will be the information used to distribute the benefits at the NAP office. NAP and CNP will receive student data from the schools. In the case of PSS, that information will come from the school records.

Parents and guardians are listed in each school’s student records. Parent/guardian #1 and parent/guardian #2 will be pulled from the files and those two adults, and only those two adults, will be authorized to pick up a student’s benefits at the NAP office. We ask that each child’s parental situation in the school records be resolved and “final” as of April 30, 2024. At that time, PSS will begin generating the student data reports needed by NAP to process and prepare the benefits for distribution.



CNP and NAP are not referees in family disputes regarding which parent in split households will be determined head of household. It is the responsibility of the parents/guardians and the schools to ensure that information is accurate as of April 30. CNP and NAP are simply transferring the data from the records to make the benefits available. Changes made after April 30 may or may not be reflected in the benefit distributions. As these are federal funds, there must be accountability.

If an eligible student is 18 years of age or older, s/he will be allowed to pick up his/her own benefits.

For those households who opted out of sharing your children's data.

This was an option when registering your children at PSS. If you chose "don't share my child's data," your child's data will not be sent to NAP and there will be no benefits issued. You can check (and possibly change) your data sharing status by visiting the PSS Parent Portal or visiting the registrar at your child's school.

Distribution:



Each student meeting the age and enrollment requirements is eligible to receive \$177 in S-EBT benefit coupons. **Distribution dates are by letters and we are to follow the LAST NAME OF THE HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD.** Distributions will take place according to the following schedule:

FIRST LETTER OF LAST NAME	DATE	DAY
'A' to 'B'	July 15, 2024	Monday
'C' to 'D'	July 16, 2024	Tuesday
'E' to 'K'	July 17, 2024	Wednesday
'L' to 'N'	July 18, 2024	Thursday
'O' to 'R'	July 19, 2024	Friday
'S' to 'T'	July 20, 2024	Saturday
CLOSED	July 21, 2024	Sunday
'U' to 'Z'	July 22, 2024	Monday

Open days will be July 23 to November 09, 2024 except weekends and holidays from 8:00am to 12:00pm via walk-in process for households unable to pick up during the drive-thru in the NAP BICA Office. S-EBT benefits will be distributed in a similar way to monthly NAP benefits, but during a different week of the month due to NAP staffing capacity.

Households coming to pick up S-EBT benefits that do not correspond to their appropriate day will be instructed to return on their designated day, or walk in between 8:00am to 12:00 pm July 23 –November 09. This information will be included in all flyers and announcements. In addition, two signs are posted per day with the first letters of the last names being issued for that day.

If your child does not get benefits:

There will be some eligible students who, for whatever reason, do not receive benefits during the initial distributions. A helpline will be set up to receive calls and collect information. CNP, NAP, and PSS will investigate and ensure that households of all eligible kids receive the benefits they are entitled to. It may take longer than you expect, but eligible students will have access to benefits before the end of the distribution period in November.