



# Arkansas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired

2600 W. Markham • Little Rock, Arkansas • 72205 • (501) 296-1810 • Fax (501) 296-1831

Johnny Key  
Secretary

James Caton  
Superintendent

August 3, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT) is a federal program designed to provide food support to families with children who were receiving free and reduced-price school meals and missed school for COVID-related absences. It can help families pay for food when students are absent from school due to a COVID-19 related isolation/quarantine. The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), in collaboration with the Department of Human Services (DHS), received approval to operate this program in response to the COVID-19 related school closures for school year 2021-22.

To be eligible a student must:

- Qualify for free and reduced priced meal, AND
- Have been absent from school due to COVID-19 isolation/quarantine

\*\*Benefits are allowed only on planned school calendar days. Benefits are not allowed on weekends or holidays.

For students whose instruction choice was in-person, the households can contact the Arkansas School for the Blind School District at (800) 362-4451 and complete the Arkansas Parent-Initiated P-EBT Application. The school district will verify the absences, approve the application, and submit the student's information to DESE. DESE will provide a file for DHS to process the benefit.

Anticipated timeline:

- August 4-10, 2022 – Household to complete the application process and submit to the district
- August 10-12, 2022 – District to consolidate collected student information and submit spreadsheet to DESE

If you have questions or need help, contact Amy Lamuel or Barbara Cole at (800) 362-4451.

Sincerely,

Barbara Cole, Child Nutrition Director

#### Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

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
3. email:  
[program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

# P-EBT BENEFITS

## QUALIFICATIONS

- MY CHILD QUALIFIES FOR FREE/REDUCED LUNCH PRICES
  - ATTENDED A CEP OR PROVISION 2 SCHOOL
  - APPROVED THROUGH A MEAL APPLICATION
  - DIRECTLY CERTIFIED
- AND
- MY STUDENT HAD AN ABSENCE DUE TO COVID-19 IN THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

IF THE ABOVE QUALIFICATIONS ARE BOTH TRUE, CONTACT YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL FOR MORE INFORMATION

# P-EBT BENEFITS

