



Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Program

2021

During the pandemic, we have seen increased food insecurity for our students along with an increase in homelessness as housing prices rise in fast growing parts of our state.

Through P-EBT, eligible school children receive temporary emergency nutrition benefits loaded on a P-EBT card that is used to purchase food. Eligibility is based on school closures of at least 5 consecutive days and student eligibility criteria.

While the P-EBT program is a function of the Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) as a part of SNAP, the Superintendent and SDE stepped up to ensure that Idaho would be able to participate in this program to address child hunger. The Superintendent's child nutrition staff worked with DHW to administer Round 1 of P-EBT, which covered school closures for the 2019-2020 school year.

The SDE took over primary administration of Idaho's program in School Year 2020-2021, or Round 2 of the program. As the primary administrator required partnering with the Idaho Digital Learning Alliance to develop a software application for districts and charters to upload information. It also required doing a request for proposals (RFP) and contracting with a call center to handle the large volume of calls from families regarding their benefits. In addition, SDE staff handled a large volume of returned mail due to incorrect addresses on file with local districts and charters.

The Superintendent and her child nutrition staff have continued to be the primary administrator for Summer 2021 P-EBT. For the current 2021-2022 school year, the superintendent's office is working with DHW to submit Idaho's application to the US Department of Agriculture for our participation in this next round of P-EBT.

SCHOOL YEAR 2019-2020 P-EBT

P-EBT Round 1 (SY2019-20) paid \$38,108,404.50 to 126,145 with a fixed benefit of \$302 for each child.

SCHOOL YEAR 2020-2021 P-EBT

P-EBT Round 2 (SY2020-21) paid \$26,984,197 to 78,663 individual children different amounts for the SY21 benefits they received between June 22-September 30, 2021.

SUMMER 2021 P-EBT

Summer P-EBT 2021 was distributed in December 2021 and paid \$33,490,500.00 to 89,308 children with a fixed benefit of \$375 for each child.

TOTAL DOLLARS FOR IDAHO P-EBT PHASE 1, 2 AND 3

School Years 2019-2020, 2020-2021 and Summer P-EBT 2021 paid \$98,583,101.50 Idaho families this year to purchase food for their children.

For Questions Contact

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