

## Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (S-EBT) Questions and Answers

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) developed this document to provide answers to commonly asked questions about S-EBT for the 2023-24 school year.

**Last Update: April 22, 2024**

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### Eligibility

Question	Answer
<p>What is the S-EBT eligibility for a student enrolled in a National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or School Breakfast Program (SBP)?</p>	<p>Students who are income-eligible, able to be directly certified, or categorically eligible for free or reduced price (FRP) school meals are eligible for S-EBT. Students can complete an Application for Educational Benefits or Alternative Income if they suspect they qualify. Schools will verify eligibility and contact households with an approval or denial letter.</p>
<p>What is the age range for S-EBT eligibility?</p>	<p>Children of any age who are enrolled in NSLP/SBP participating schools are eligible for S-EBT if they are also eligible for FRP school meals. This includes children of high school grade or under, including preschool-age children.</p> <p>Children not attending an NSLP/SBP school that qualify through a Department of Human Services (DHS) program (defined below) will need to fit within the state of Minnesota’s compulsory age range of 7 to 17 years old.</p>

Question	Answer
What is direct certification?	Direct certification is a term for students enrolled at an NSLP/SBP school that are active on a DHS eligible program. DHS provides student data to schools for the purposes of FRP and S-EBT eligibility. Schools will upload direct certified students into the S-EBT portal. Students who are directly certified do not need an FRP application to qualify for S-EBT benefits.
What is a DHS eligible program?	<p>DHS eligible programs are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supplemental Nutrition Assistant Program (SNAP)</li> <li>• Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)</li> <li>• Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)</li> <li>• Foster care</li> <li>• Medicaid</li> </ul>
How do households opt-out of receiving S-EBT benefits?	Households should connect with their school to request an opt-out of benefits. If a child does not attend an NSLP participating school, then they should contact the S-EBT call center and opt-out with a customer service representative.
Do all direct certified students qualify for S-EBT?	Yes, all direct certified students qualify for S-EBT. Direct certified students that attend an NSLP/SBP will need their student data added to the S-EBT portal.
Are children who are not enrolled in NSLP/SBP schools eligible for Summer EBT?	<p>It depends. School-age children who are not enrolled in an NSLP/SBP school, including children enrolled in a public or private school that does not participate in the NSLP/SBP and homeschooled children, may be deemed eligible for S-EBT if they participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), Medicaid, or Foster.</p> <p>Children who are not enrolled in NSLP/SBP participating schools cannot establish their S-EBT eligibility by filling out an FRP application.</p>

Question	Answer
<p>What early learning program students are eligible for S-EBT?</p>	<p>Students in the following early learning programs may be eligible for S-EBT:</p> <p>Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK)—Grades PA-PJ</p> <p>School Readiness Plus (SR+)—Grades RA-RJ</p> <p>Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)—Grade EC with SPED evaluation status 4 or 6 (setting must not be 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 43, 44 or 45)</p> <p>Students who received an early learning scholarship (2023-24) may also be eligible for S-EBT.</p>
<p>Will all children who attend special provision or CEP schools be automatically enrolled in S EBT (i.e., be issued benefits without the need to apply)?</p>	<p>No. In order to be eligible for S-EBT benefits, children must be individually determined to be eligible for free or reduced-price school meal benefits during the instructional year immediately preceding the summer operational period or during the summer operational period. Children enrolled in provision or CEP schools who are not otherwise identified as Summer EBT eligible through streamlined certification may apply for S-EBT benefits using the alternative income applications. This is different from Pandemic EBT where all children in special provision schools were eligible for benefits.</p>
<p>What if a student changes schools mid-year? Are they still eligible and what school would enter this student?</p>	<p>An FRP approved student that was enrolled at an NSLP/SBP school between July 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024, would qualify for S-EBT. Schools should enter these students into the portal even if the student is not currently enrolled. Please provide the most accurate data possible.</p>
<p>What if a student moved from an NSLP/SBP school to virtual, home, or non-public school, are they eligible?</p>	<p>An FRP approved student that was enrolled at an NSLP/SBP school between July 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024, would qualify for S-EBT. Schools should enter these students into the portal even if the student moved to a different school district or schooling type. Please provide the most accurate data possible.</p>
<p>What if our district has students in a hybrid school? Do these students qualify?</p>	<p>If a virtual school is part of the district and considered an NSLP/SBP participating school, those students will need to be verified for eligibility for S-EBT either through FRP application or through direct certification data.</p>

Question	Answer
What if a student moved to another state? Are they still eligible for S-EBT in Minnesota?	No. Students that moved out of state should not be entered into the S-EBT portal.
What are the approved grade levels for students to qualify?	Approved <a href="#">grade levels</a> include: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, KA, KB, KC, KD, KE, KF, KG, KI, KJ, KK, PA-PJ, RA-RJ, EC, EE.
What if a student graduated early? Do they still qualify?	An FRP approved student that was enrolled at an NSLP/SBP school between July 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024, would qualify for S-EBT. Schools should enter these students into the portal even if the student is not currently enrolled. Please provide the most accurate data possible.

## Benefits

How much will the summer benefit be for S-EBT?	Minnesota will be providing eligible students a one-time payment of \$120 on their S-EBT card.
Will households be mailed new cards for the S-EBT program?	Yes, S-EBT cards will be mailed to each qualified student to the address listed in the portal.

## Data Entry and Submission

Question	Answer
How do schools provide student data to confirm student free and reduced lunch eligibility?	Schools should only submit data for students who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. The data submission will include student information (e.g., name, birthdate, gender, FRP date, and parent information (e.g., parent ID, name address, phone number and email address).

Question	Answer
What responsibilities do schools have in the S-EBT eligibility process?	Schools are required to submit data for students who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals or approved alternative applications for CEP or Provision schools. The data submission included student information (e.g., name, birthdate, gender, free or reduced-price meal status, and homeless status), and parent information (e.g., parent ID, name, address, phone number, and email address).
Who is responsible for entering nonpublic school student data?	Nonpublic schools are responsible for entering their students' data unless they have discussed an alternative plan with their local public-school district.
Can a student that is 18 years old or older have themselves listed as the head-of-household?	Yes. Once 18 years old a student can request their name be added as head-of-household.
Do schools upload direct certified students to the portal?	Yes. Students found to be directly certified between July 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024, would qualify for S-EBT. These students are to be added to the S-EBT portal to allow for the most current address and head-of-household contact to be utilized.
What data should be included for the first deadline?	For the first deadline, schools are encouraged to upload all FRP approved students for the 2023/24 school year. This includes students that qualified through the Application for Educational Benefit, Alternative Income Application, or Direct Certification. This data will be confirmed against 2023/24 the Minnesota Automated Reporting Student System (MARSS) data.
What data should be included for the final deadline?	For the final deadline, schools are encouraged to upload all FRP approved students for the 2023/24 school year, and newly eligible students that qualified through a 2024/25 FRP application. This includes students that qualified through the Application for Educational Benefit, Alternative Income Application, or Direct Certification. This data will be confirmed against 2023/24 and 2024/25 MARSS data.