



**Office of Temporary
and Disability Assistance**

Overview of Summer EBT

New York State - 2026

Summer EBT Staff

OTDA

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What is Summer EBT?

- Food benefits for eligible children to supplement the loss of free school meals during the summer months
- \$120 benefit per eligible child - paid in a single issuance
- Just under 2 million children were issued a benefit in 2025, we expect similar numbers for 2026
- Most children will be automatically enrolled through streamlined certification
- The first round of benefits will be issued on June 16th

2026 Eligibility

Period of Eligibility is July 1, 2025, to September 8, 2026

Streamline Certified (Automatically Enrolled & Issued)

Participates in:

- SNAP/Temporary Assistance/Medicaid (age 6-16)

OR

- Directly Certified for free/reduced-price meals by their school (any age)

Eligible Through an Application

- Not Streamline Certified
- Attends a National School Lunch Program (NSLP) participating school

AND

- Household income at or below 185% FPL (income limit for free or reduced-price school meals)

Universal school meals or a school's CEP participation cannot be used to determine eligibility. All children require an individual eligibility determination, which must be either categorically eligible/directly certified by the school, or determined eligible through an application.

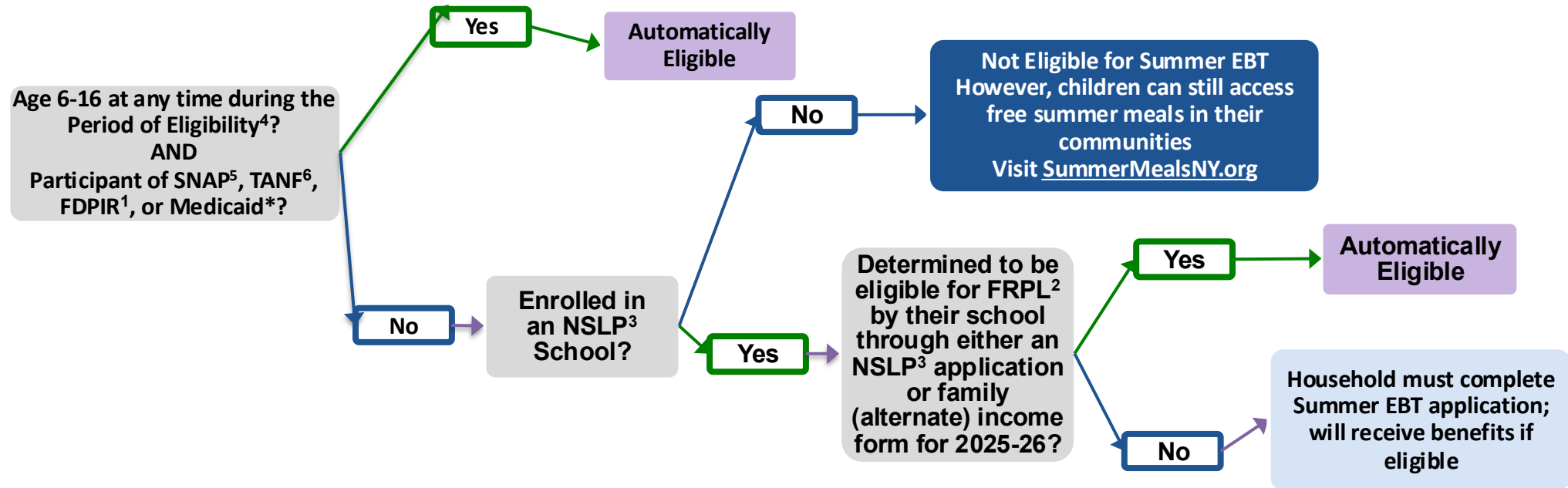
Income Guidelines

Income Guidelines for Summer EBT (185% FPL)					
Household Size	Gross Annual Income	Gross Monthly Income	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	\$28,953	\$2,413	\$1,207	\$1,114	\$557
2	\$39,128	\$3,261	\$1,631	\$1,505	\$753
3	\$49,303	\$4,109	\$2,055	\$1,897	\$949
4	\$59,478	\$4,957	\$2,479	\$2,288	\$1,144
5	\$69,653	\$5,805	\$2,903	\$2,679	\$1,340
6	\$79,828	\$6,653	\$3,327	\$3,071	\$1,536
7	\$90,003	\$7,501	\$3,751	\$3,462	\$1,731
8	\$100,178	\$8,349	\$4,175	\$3,853	\$1,927
Each additional person	\$10,175	\$848	\$424	\$392	\$196

Is My Child Eligible for Summer EBT 2026?

Answer the following questions to find out.

Is the child...



1. FDPIR- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
2. FRPL- Free and Reduced-Price Lunch- A child's FRPL eligibility is established based on their participation in SNAP, TANF, FDPIR, or Medicaid*, or if they are homeless, migrant, runaway, foster, enrolled in Head Start or an eligible pre-kindergarten program, or through an income application. The New York State Education Department collects this student level data through the Student Information Repository System (SIRS) or the Information and Reporting Services Data Exchange (IDEx), which is then transferred to the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance.
3. NSLP- National School Lunch Program
4. Period of Eligibility- July 1, 2025, to September 8, 2026.
5. SNAP- Supplemental Nutrition Program
6. TANF- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families* Medicaid- Limited to certain Medicaid-eligible children with household income at or below 185% of poverty before application of blocks, disregards, or exceptions.

Streamline Certification/Automatically Enrolled

- Summer EBT-Eligible children identified from:
 - NYSED student enrollment, contact, and parent/guardian data from:
 - Public Schools
 - Non-public Schools
 - NYS DOH Medicaid data (Age 6-16 during period of eligibility)
 - SNAP/TA data (Age 6-16 during period of eligibility)
- Students meeting eligibility criteria are automatically enrolled in Summer EBT and will be issued benefits
- Eligibility letters issued beginning in May and continuing throughout the year

Summer EBT Application

- Child eligible if:
 - Not already streamline certified
 - Child attends NSLP school, and
 - Household income at or below 185% FPL
- Online/Mobile friendly portal
 - Available year-round
 - English/Spanish
 - Paper applications available in 11 additional languages
 - Requires NY.gov ID login
- Complete by **September 8** to be considered for 2026 benefits

Application Components

- One application per Household
- Application Components:
 - Child name, DOB, School name
 - Child's NYS Student Identification System (NYSSIS) ID number and/or local student ID number (optional)
 - Names of all others living in household
 - Amount and frequency of all income sources
 - Current address, phone number, and email address
 - Sign attestation
- No documentation required at time of application
- Verification will be required of a random sample of 3% of approved applicants

Summer EBT Timeline

Eligibility letters – Benefit issuance – EBT card mailing – Outreach

- **May:**
 - **Eligibility letters** to auto-enrolled through Public School, SNAP (1.6M children)
- **June:**
 - **Benefit issuance** to auto-enrolled Public School, SNAP
 - **EBT cards** mailed to new recipients and existing recipients that didn't use their benefit last year
 - **Text messages** alerting benefit issuance (starting late June)
- **July:**
 - **Eligibility letters** to auto-enrolled Non-Public Schools, Medicaid (about 300,000 children)
 - **Text message** campaign continues
 - **Verification** process begins
- **August:**
 - **Benefit issuance** to auto-enrolled Non-Public Schools, Medicaid
 - **Applications** continue being reviewed on a rolling basis
 - **Verification** process continues
 - **Appeals** process begins

Summer EBT Timeline

Eligibility letters – Benefit issuance – EBT card mailing – Outreach

- **September-October:**

- **Eligibility letters & Benefit issuance** to approved verifications and applications, and other eligible children as needed
- **Application** window for 2026 program closes on 9/8/26
- **Appeals and verification** processes conclude
- **Text messages** alerting of impending benefit expirations begin

- **November-December:**

- **Eligibility letters** to remaining verifications and applications, approved appeals, and all other eligible children
- **Final Benefit issuance** of 2026 program
- **Text message** alerting of impending benefit expirations continues
- **Conclusion** of 2026 program

Household Communication

Eligibility letters

- Letters contain program information and specific payment method for the child

Emails/Text Messages

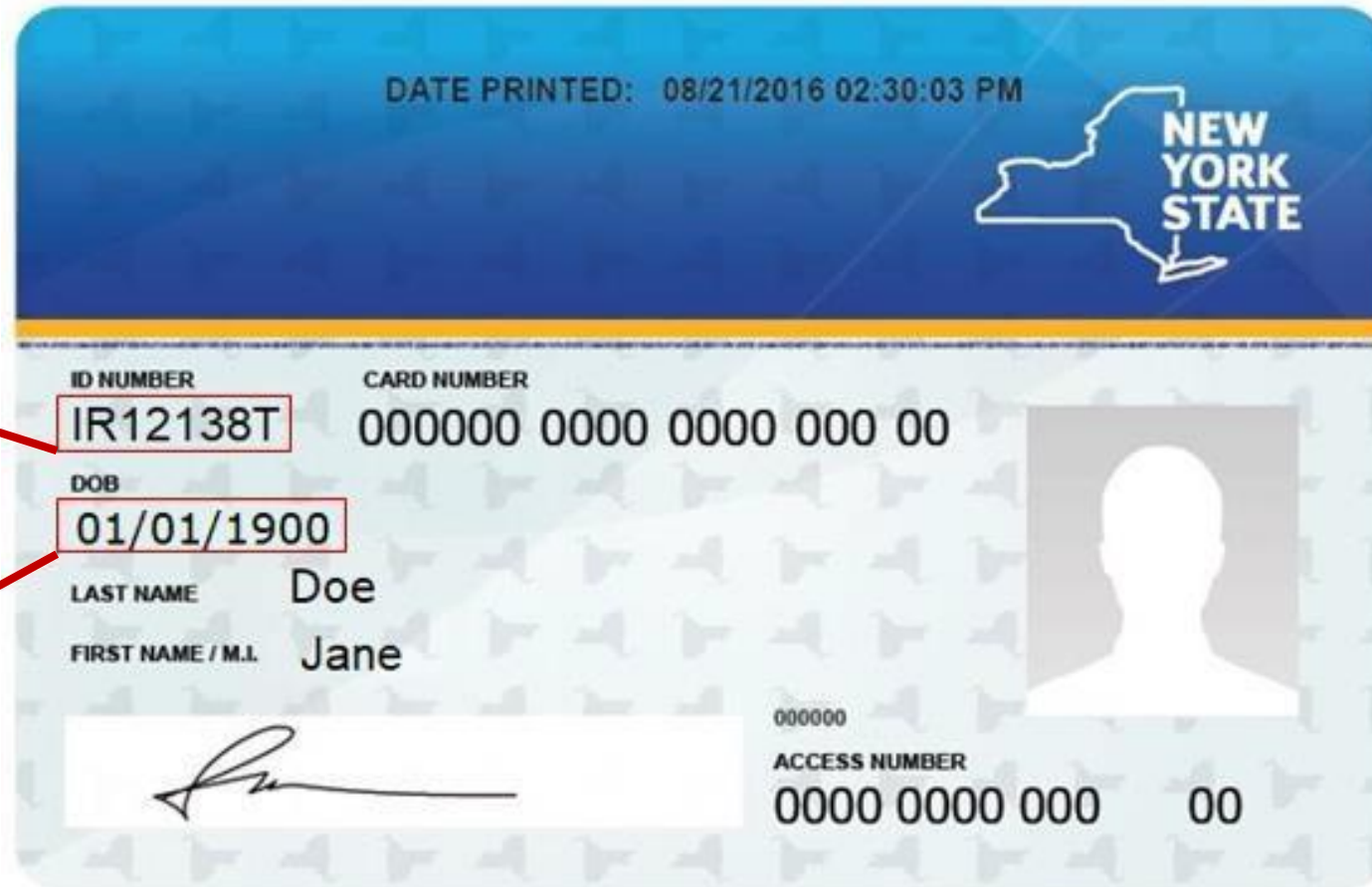
- Reinforcement of eligibility notice
- Benefits issuance
- Benefits reminder (8 weeks notice)
- Benefits expiration (4 weeks notice)
- Text messages from OTDA Short Code: 696832
- Email notifications from: nyotda@public.govdelivery.com

Benefits/Payment Method

- Every child will have their own Summer EBT food benefit card

All Summer EBT cards will have an ID number with "I" in the first or second position

All Summer EBT cards will have a 01/01/1900 DOB



Benefits/Payment Method

- Benefits will be issued on:
 - An existing Summer EBT card; **OR**
 - A new Summer EBT card
- Benefits will **NOT** be issued to a household SNAP EBT account
- Card replacement/activation information included in letters and on website
- Keep Summer EBT food benefit card for future program year benefits
- Use Summer EBT benefits just like SNAP benefits at SNAP-participating retailers including grocery stores and farmers' markets
- **Summer EBT benefits cannot be replaced if stolen**

Benefit Protection

- Creation of an ebtEDGE account allows:
 - Monitoring of benefit issuance
 - Access to transaction history
 - Updating PIN
 - Freeze the card
- www.ebtEDGE.com
- ebtEDGE mobile app available on Google Play Store and Apple App Store

Benefit Expiration

- At midnight on the **122nd** day from **date of issuance**
- All unused funds expire and are removed from the card
- **Use benefits as soon as possible**
- Challenge: short timeframe to update address, issue replacement cards, etc.
- Text messages sent 4 weeks and 8 weeks prior to benefit expiration date

Customer Service

OTDA.ny.gov/SummerEBT

- Benefit issuance timeline
- Eligibility
- EBT card replacement/activation
- Detailed FAQ
- Application link/instructions
- Outreach materials

Summer EBT Helpline

- 833-452-0096
- Answer general questions
- Child-specific eligibility questions
- Update address/order replacement card
- Card activation troubleshooting
- Interpreters for any language available

EBT Customer Service Helpline (ebtEDGE)

- 888-328-6399
- Activate EBT cards
- Order replacement cards to the same address on file
- Change PIN

Outreach Materials

- General Flyer
- Sample Newsletter/e-news article
- Sample social media posts
- Reference materials
- This information can be found at:

otda.ny.gov/programs/summer-ebt/school-provider-information/

- Messaging goals:
 - Raise awareness about the program, eligibility, and 4-month benefit lifecycle
 - Increase communication about application process in CEP schools
 - Focus on vulnerable populations



Summer EBT Food Benefits

Learn how New York's Summer EBT program can help feed kids this summer!

The Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) program will help families buy food for their school-aged children during the summer. Families will get **\$120** in food benefits for each eligible child. Eligible children will receive Summer EBT food benefits on an EBT card. Families can use their Summer EBT benefits to buy food like fruits, vegetables, meat, whole grains, and dairy at **authorized retail food stores, farmers' markets**, and anywhere else SNAP is accepted. Most children will be automatically eligible for Summer EBT and do not need to do anything to enroll. However, some children may need to apply. Apply online by September 8, 2026, for 2026 benefits.

Automatically Enrolled:

- The child is age 6-16 and received SNAP, Temporary Assistance, or Medicaid at any time in the period of eligibility.
- OR**
- The child has been directly certified by their school for free/reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program during the 2025-26 school year.
- **Automatically enrolled children DO NOT need to apply.**

Must Apply:

- The child is not automatically enrolled, **AND**
- The household meets the **income requirements** for free/reduced-price school meals, **AND**
- The child attends a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program,
- The online application is available at SummerEBT.ny.gov

Unused Summer EBT benefits expire and are removed from the EBT card 122 days from the date they are issued. Families should use their benefits soon after they are received. The period of eligibility is July 1, 2025, to September 8, 2026. To learn more about Summer EBT, including when and how food benefits will be issued and how to use them, visit otda.ny.gov/SummerEBT.



For more information, visit:
otda.ny.gov/SummerEBT



Pub-5295 (4/26)

Q&A

Can teens have their own EBT accounts?

Yes, the Summer EBT benefit is in the student's name. They can also create their own ebtEDGE account as long as they have their card information.

How is Summer EBT used at Farmers' Markets?

Summer EBT benefits can be used anywhere SNAP benefits are accepted. Check snaptomarket.com for more information

How do we report students who attended part of the school year?

As long as they attended an NSLP school and meet the financial guidelines or program participation criteria at any point during the period of eligibility 7/1/2025-9/8/2026, they are eligible for Summer EBT 2026.

What's the scope in which agencies can assist parents with Summer EBT?

Ensuring that parents keep their information, such as parent/guardian name, contact info, and mailing address up to date at their child's school and their local DSS/HRA. Helping with the completion of applications if necessary and/or signing up for ebtEDGE.

Q&A

What role do schools have?

Keep student data, including parent/guardian information, contact, and mailing address, up to date within the SIRS database, as well as providing a student's NYSSIS ID when requested by a parent/guardian. Families who have moved since February (when our public school data was pulled) should contact the Summer EBT Helpline to order a new EBT card.

Are children in Pre-K eligible?

If a child attends a preschool participating in the National School Lunch Program and is directly certified for free/reduced-price meals, they will receive Summer EBT benefits automatically. If the child has not been directly certified for free meals by their school, they may apply as long as they meet the eligibility criteria for the application.

Many Pre-K3 and Pre-K4 programs are located within a school building but may be operated by another facility. If you are unsure if your preschool is an NSLP participant, please check with the school program director.

Should families be encouraged to fill out an application?

If a child did not receive a benefit on June 16th and the family has reviewed the application criteria, they should apply if they believe they are eligible through an application.

Q&A

How do we determine eligibility? Which schools are eligible?

OTDA receives roster files from all public and charter schools, along with many non-public schools in New York State. Those files indicate if the schools participate in the National School Lunch Program and if they are CEP, Provision 2, or Provision 2 in the base year. They also indicate if the child is directly certified for Medicaid or SNAP, if they are homeless, a migrant, or in foster care, or if they have been directly certified through their school via an NSLP free/reduced price meal application (Provision 2 base year only) or a family/alternate income form (CEP/Provision 2).

Can families use benefits after the summer is over?

Yes, families have four months (122 days from the issuance date) to use their benefits. Benefits that are issued by June 16th will expire by October 17th. We plan to issue two benefit batches over the Summer – one by June 16th and the other by August 3rd. Those benefits will expire this fall. We will also issue two additional benefit batches in late October and late December to capture all children who became eligible for Summer EBT benefits through the end of the summer.

What training/education is provided for local DSS offices?

We send out a quick facts reference guide and a general information memo to DSS offices so that they are aware of the program and its operational timeframe. Local DSS has no role in Summer EBT except for keeping client data up to date, including contact information and mailing address.



**Office of Temporary
and Disability Assistance**

How Partners Can Help

1. Amplify key Summer EBT messages.
2. Direct families to NYSOTDA's resources.
3. Use your communication channels to share outreach resources.

Amplify Key Summer EBT Messages

Summer EBT benefit issuance begins

- Children automatically enrolled will receive letters from NYSOTDA
- Letters will include **when** a family should expect their benefit

● June

Haven't been notified? Apply!

- Eligible children who have not yet received a letter from NYSOTDA should apply ASAP

● August

● July

Benefit issuance continues

- NYSOTDA continues to send letters
- Use benefits quickly – they expire after 122 days
- NYSOTDA will send text message reminders about benefit expiration

● September

Summer EBT application deadline

- The deadline to apply is Sept. 8th
- Families should keep their S-EBT cards year-to-year

Direct Families to NYSOTDA's Resources

- **Spread the word** with [outreach materials](#)
- **Connect families** to the most up-to-date information at otda.ny.gov/SummerEBT
- For case specific questions, families can contact the **S-EBT Customer Service Helpline:**
1-833-452-0096
- For card related questions, families can contact the **ebtEDGE Customer Service Helpline:** 1-888-328-6399

Summer EBT is here!
Find out if your child qualifies

Eligible school-age kids receive \$120.

Most children are automatically enrolled.

Can be used to purchase groceries.

For more information, visit:
otda.ny.gov/SummerEBT

NEW YORK STATE Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
Summer EBT

Additional Resources

- **Leverage cross-program [outreach materials](#)** to promote both Summer EBT & Summer Meals
- **Learn more about school's role in [Summer EBT Tips for Schools](#)**
- **Hear about Summer EBT Champions** in New York in No Kid Hungry's new [blog post](#)
- **Check out [New York Summer EBT Resources](#) & [National Summer EBT Tools](#)** from No Kid Hungry New York



Stay Tuned! New toolkits and resources for 2026 are coming soon.

Q & A

