

## Pandemic-EBT Information for Foster Families

Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) is additional food support for children who are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals, including youth in care, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Caregivers of school-age youth in care will receive \$5.70 per child per day for every day schools were closed from March 16 – June 30 to buy food.

### Important Facts about these Food Benefits

- Students in foster care who were eligible for free or reduced-price school meals at a participating National School Lunch Program school between March 16 – June 30, 2020 are automatically eligible for P-EBT benefits. There is no need to apply or complete any forms.
- Not all foster students will not be eligible for P-EBT. Students must be enrolled in a qualified school to receive benefits. A full list can be found on the ODE website under [Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer](#).
- Oregon Trail Cards will be issued in the child's name and mailed to the caregiver's address on file with Child Welfare, so that the card is available to the primary person who purchases food and cooks for the child.
- Oregon Trail Cards will be mailed throughout the month of June and July.
- If you receive an Oregon Trail card for a child no longer in your care, please return it to either the child's caseworker or the Self-Sufficiency Programs (SSP) office so it can be sent to the child's new address. Child Welfare caseworkers can send it to the new address without having to go through SSP. If the child has returned home, the card can be sent to the parent caring for the child.
- Eligible children will receive up to \$384 in food benefits.
- Caregivers that receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits for children in their care will have the additional food benefits automatically deposited on their Oregon Trail Card on their regular June allotment date. Separate Oregon Trail cards may be received for children that are not on the caregivers SNAP case.
- Students can still pick-up the to-go meals at schools and get P-EBT benefits. They do not have to choose between them.
- Oregon Trail Cards can be used to buy food at most grocery stores and farmers markets.
- Oregon Trail Cards can be used to purchase food online at Amazon and Walmart.
- More information about P-EBT and food benefits: <https://oralert.gov/benefits>.

Please reach out to Oregon's P-EBT team with questions or if there are issues activating the card:

Phone: (503) 945-6481

Email: [ebt.schoolmeals@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:ebt.schoolmeals@dhsosha.state.or.us)