

SUN Bucks Basics

SUN Bucks, sometimes called Summer EBT, is a new federal program that helps families who qualify to buy groceries during the summer months using a debit-like EBT Card.

To get SUN Bucks, each child must meet criteria set by the USDA. Some kids will automatically qualify, while others can apply. Children must individually qualify during the school year before the summer starts or they can apply over the summer.

Each student that qualifies will receive one payment of **\$120 in benefits** for the summer period.

Visit <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofl> for more information and latest updates.



When will SUN Bucks Benefits be issued?

Late June 2024 to late October 2024: Summer 2024 benefits for qualifying students will be issued at the end of each month, June – October as students are determined eligible

- If the student currently receives SNAP, the benefits will be loaded onto their existing Pine Tree card
- If the student received P-EBT last year, the benefits will be loaded onto their existing P-EBT card
- If the student does not have an existing account, they will be sent a new Pine Tree Card

If students no longer have their P-EBT Card, they can order a replacement by calling OFI at 1-855-797-4357 (8-4:30 M-F)

Who will get SUN Bucks Benefits?

NSLP School Student Eligibility

Students enrolled in NSLP schools are automatically eligible if they participate in at **least one** of the following:

- **Have submitted and qualify** for free or reduced-price school meals, with a Free & Reduced Price Meal Benefit Application or Alternate Income Form
- SNAP, TANF, FDIR
- Are Homeless, Migrant or a Foster Child
- MaineCare with a verified household income level below 185% of the federal poverty level

All other students that attend an NSLP school **may apply** for SUN Bucks by completing an application

Non- NSLP School Student Eligibility

Students **NOT** enrolled in NSLP schools are automatically eligible if they are between the **ages of 6-16** and participate in at **least one** of the following:

- SNAP, TANF, FDIR
- Are Homeless, Migrant or a Foster Child
- MaineCare with a verified household income level below 185% of the federal poverty level

All other Non-NSLP students are not eligible for Sun Bucks

Students at Community Eligibility (CEP) Schools or Schools participating in Special Provision II

Students in special provision schools are automatically eligible if they participate in **at least one** of the following:

- SNAP, TANF, FDIR
- Are Homeless, Migrant or a Foster Child
- MaineCare with a verified household income level below 185% of the federal poverty level

All other students that attend special provision schools **may apply** for SUN Bucks by completing an application

To Activate a new card

To activate a new card, the PIN activation code will be the child's date of birth, when prompted for a SS# use the child's social security number, if this is a new account use all 9's.

It is **crucial** to activate the EBT card within 45 days of receipt, or a new one will need to be ordered, if you try and fail 3 times, you will need to wait 24 hours to try again.

Points of Contact/ Additional Questions

Families should wait to receive the **Notice of Decision**, that will be mailed to families in mid May to see if they have been pre-qualified. If they do not receive a letter in the mail, they can find and application for benefits at:

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofl/applications-forms>

Applications will be accepted until August 15th

You can also find answers to frequently asked questions (FAQ's) at www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofl or by calling OFI at 1-855-797-4357 (8-4:30 M-F)

HOT LUNCH Summer Meals

Families receiving SUN Bucks, may still participate in HOT LUNCH Summer programs across the state, where they can find SUN meals or SUN meals to go.

To find the site closest to you go to:

<https://www.maine.gov/doe/hotlunchsummer>



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