



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
23 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0023

JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR

A. PENDER MAKIN  
COMMISSIONER

To: School Staff  
From: Jane McLucas, Director of Child Nutrition  
Re: SUN Bucks  
Date: May 10, 2024

In December of 2022, a bipartisan Congress created a new, permanent Child Nutrition Program to provide food dollars to low-income families with school-aged kids over the summer months. This program, SUN Bucks, will provide grocery-buying benefits to low-income families with school aged children when schools are closed for the summer.

Child Nutrition and the Office of Family Independence (OFI) have been working hard to put a plan in place to get these benefits to children this summer. Families will receive \$120.00 in one payment for the summer period. Most families will be automatically qualified with their participation in other DHHS programs, but applications will be available in late May for families wanting to apply.

I wanted to provide you with some tools that will be included with the letter and share an estimated timeline for benefits to be sent to families.

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| Mid May         | There is a Notice of Decision (NOD) being sent to families who are streamline certified for the benefit. This letter will include opt-out instructions if families do not want the benefit. This letter is only to let them know they are eligible for the benefit and how it is going to be sent. |
| End of May      | An application for benefits will be available on the OFI website, for families who feel they would qualify for the benefit but did not receive the NOD.  |
| End of June     | Families who were automatically qualified via another program will receive their SUN Bucks on an EBT Card.   |
| Later in Summer | Families who apply later in the summer months, will receive their benefits at the end of the month in which their application is approved.   |

If the NOD letters or cards get sent to you, it means the address given to DHHS was not accurate. If you would please reach out to families that you may know to get them the benefits they need. If you are unsuccessful please hold the card for the return to school or dispose of the card. Funds will be removed from the cards 122 days after issuance.

Please see the attachments for more information and please on your websites for families.

Families should use the DHHS contacts for questions about their benefits.  
School staff may reach out to me about questions or clarification with the process at 207-624-6880.