



NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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June 5, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

New Jersey has worked tirelessly to combat food insecurity. Last year, we signed into law the “Working Class Families Anti-Hunger Act” which expanded free school lunch eligibility by increasing the income limit to **\$67,200**. This summer, New Jersey will be sending a **\$120 EBT** card to every eligible child to purchase food at participating retailers.

Summer EBT is a new-to-NJ child nutrition program intended to reduce hunger and food insecurity for children who lose access to free school meals when school is not in session. We would like to share this information with you to ensure that no New Jersey family leaves \$120 on the table this summer.

How does a Parent/Guardian apply?

- If the student has already been certified as eligible to receive free school meals by their school district AND their household income is below 185% of the 2023-2024 federal poverty level, then the student is automatically eligible to receive the federal Summer EBT benefit, and no further action is required.
- If the student does not receive free school meals, they may still be eligible if their household participates in SNAP or TANF or the child is in foster care. Parents can submit School Meal Applications and household surveys throughout the summer to their schools. **School Meal Applications are available on the school district website, or paper applications may be obtained at the student's school.**
- If the student attends a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school and is not directly certified or categorically eligible the student's guardian is encouraged to submit a **New Jersey Department of Education Household Information Survey before the start of summer for the federal summer EBT benefit.**
- You can find more information on Summer EBT at <https://www.nj.gov/summerebt/>.

Please consider sharing the specifics and graphics with your community of parents and guardians. A link has been provided above for more information on this program.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with my office if you have any questions. As always, thank you for the tremendous work you do in helping our children achieve educational success.

Sincerely,

Assemblywoman Shavonda E. Sumter