



Summer 2024 Electronic Benefit Transfer Program

A new benefit will be available to households of eligible school-age children in Pennsylvania this summer! The Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) program, now called **SUN Bucks**, will provide a monetary benefit to help families purchase nutritious food when school is not in session. SUN Bucks is a new, permanent federal food assistance program, established by Congress in December 2022.

Each household will receive \$120 per eligible child. To be eligible, the student must:

- Be enrolled in a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) **and** be eligible for free or reduced meals via Direct Certification, categorical eligibility, or an income eligibility application during the 2023-2024 School Year; or
- If not enrolled in an NSLP participating school, be eligible to be Directly Certified (DC) and be of compulsory school age (6-18 years).

Families that are not DC, categorically eligible, or approved for free or reduced-price meals via an income eligibility application must apply through the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) for the SUN Bucks benefit. Information on applying for SUN Bucks through DHS will be made available at a later date.

It is important to note that students enrolled in a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school (this includes Upper Merion's Bridgeport Elementary School) are *not* automatically eligible for SUN Bucks. Even though CEP students receive free meals during the regular school year, they must be DC or categorically eligible in order to automatically receive SUN Bucks. Otherwise, the household must apply for SUN Bucks through DHS.

The timing of distribution of these benefits is not determined yet. They will go onto existing EBT cards or new cards will be mailed. More details to follow when available.

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