

# How do families apply for SUN Bucks?

SUN Bucks benefits will be automatic for most students who qualify for benefits. However, students who were enrolled for a minimum of one instructional school day and were not previously certified as eligible for free or reduced-price meals AND/OR students who were enrolled in an NSLP/SBP participating school that did not distribute NSLP household applications and therefore could not be determined eligible through the application could **still potentially receive SUN Bucks benefits!** These individuals are encouraged to submit a SUN Bucks Application to ADE.



The SUN Bucks Application for this program year is currently available through the Arizona Department of Education's Health and Nutrition Services website. In order to apply online, the applicant will first complete the SUN Bucks Eligibility Screener Guide ([English](#) or [Spanish](#) version) to determine if the child will receive benefits automatically. There is also a paper SUN Bucks application that can be accessed via the website.

# Eligibility Reporting and SPO Operators

Students who are enrolled in schools that operate Special Provision Option (SPO) like the Community Eligibility Provision or Provision 2 or 3 non-base year do not have the opportunity to submit school meal applications. If a student does NOT meet the following, they should be provided the SUN Bucks application.

- Match results from the CNP Direct Certification system
- Extended Direct Certification Match results
  - SPO operators with students that are extended DC matches, will need to track and upload these extended eligibles manually in the portal.

How will the other students who are eligible receive SUN Bucks benefits?

- **These families will need to fill out a SUN Bucks Application**

\*The '[No Meal Application, No Problem](#)' resource for SPO operators contains a QR code linked to the SUN Bucks application.

**No Meal Application, No Problem...**  
How to receive SUN Bucks for students who attend schools that do not collect Household Applications for Meal Benefits

The information collected on meal applications for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) can qualify students for SUN Bucks. However, if your school doesn't collect meal applications, you may fill out a SUN Bucks application to see if your child is eligible for this grocery buying benefit.

**COMPLETE THE SUN BUCKS SCREENER TO  
Apply for SUN Bucks Today!**

**SUN Bucks Eligibility Screener**  
Scan the QR code to be directed to the screening tool that will ensure households that are pre-qualified do not complete a SUN Bucks Household Application when it is not required. For those deemed necessary to complete a SUN Bucks Household Application, the link to the application will be made available within the screener.  
For Spanish visit: <https://www.azed.gov/SUNBucks>

**SUN BUCKS**  **ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Arizona Department of Education | USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

# SUN Bucks Household Application

The SUN Bucks application is available annually at [azed.gov/SUNBucks](https://azed.gov/SUNBucks) - Applying for SUN Bucks.

School Food Authorities (SFAs) are required to:

- Ensure the application is available to households that believe they qualify for the SUN Bucks benefit but were not identified as eligible by the SFA.
- Ensure students attending schools that operate Special Provision Options have access to the SUN Bucks Household application if they do not match in CNP Direct Certification.

Eligible households may:

- Complete and submit the 2026 SUN Bucks Application to the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) by August 3, 2026 (subject to date change)
- Expect ADE to process the application and subsequently notify the household of approval/denial of benefits.

## SUN Bucks (Summer EBT/S-EBT): Information for Parents



The Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer Program (Summer-EBT/SUN Bucks) provides grocery-buying benefits to low-income families with school-aged children who lose access to free or reduced-price school meals when schools are closed for the summer.

▶ Will my child automatically receive SUN Bucks in 2026?

▶ If my child's school serves free meals to all students, are they automatically eligible for SUN Bucks?

▶ How do I know if my child is automatically eligible for SUN Bucks based on participation in AHCCCS/Medicaid?

▶ How do I apply for SUN Bucks?

▶ How will I be receiving my benefits?

▶ How do I use my SUN Bucks benefits?

▶ What if I don't want my benefits or if I'd like to opt out?

▶ What to do if my benefits were stolen?

▶ Who do I contact if I have further questions?

▶ Where can I submit an appeal of my benefits decision?

# SUN Bucks Household Application

## **APPLICANT MUST FILL OUT THE SUN BUCKS ELIGIBILITY SCREENER GUIDE**

- The SUN Bucks Eligibility Screener Guide ([English](#) or [Spanish](#) version) will determine if a child will receive benefits automatically. Completion of the eligibility screener will provide the link to the SUN Bucks household application if applicable.

## **APPLICANT MUST FILL OUT ALL REQUIRED FIELDS**

The following information will be collected when completing the SUN Bucks application:

- Custodial parent name;
- Contact information including address;
- Each child's name, school, grade, and birth date;
- All household members;
- Gross income information for each household member and child (if applicable for child);
- SNAP, TANF, FDPIR case number if household participates; and,
- Signature and attesting to information on the application.

# SUN Bucks Household Application

## **THE APPLICATION WILL BE PROCESSED AND BENEFITS WILL BE GIVEN TO ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS**

SUN Bucks Household Applications will be submitted to and processed by ADE. These applications must be submitted to ADE by August 3, 2026. This date is subject to change.

- *This date is subject to change annually.*

**SUN Bucks parent hotline/phone number:**  
833-648-4406

**SUN Bucks email address:**  
SUNBucks@azed.gov

**SUN Bucks website for households:**  
<https://www.azed.gov/SUNBucks>