

Sample Letters to Families

General Letter

Dear {INSERT SCHOOL/SYSTEM NAME} Families,

Louisiana is offering families a second opportunity to receive financial benefits from free and reduced-price school meals that were missed when schools closed in 2019-2020 due to the pandemic. If your child received free or reduced-price meals this past spring and you did not apply for the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program in May and June, I encourage you to take advantage of the second application window open from September 8 at 8 a.m. until September 29 at 5 p.m.

This second application period is only for families of the estimated 264,111 students statewide who did not apply to receive P-EBT benefits during the initial window. Families of children who normally receive free or reduced-price meals may be eligible for the program. This includes all children who attend a [Community Eligibility Provision school](#) where every child receives free and reduced-price meals regardless of income.

These one-time benefits, which total \$285 per child, intend to cover 50 school days, from the onset of statewide school facility closures in March through the end of the 2019-2020 academic year. Parents who applied for free meals in May, after the P-EBT program was announced, will receive \$91.20 per eligible child, which covers the cost of meals for 16 school days in May.

The application will be available in a P-EBT portal on the Louisiana Department of Education website at louisianabelieves.com. State officials expect considerable interest in the program and ask applicants to be patient in trying to access the portal.

The online application is simple, requiring only a name, address, school district and school. Social security numbers, while helpful, are not required. The information submitted by the family, however, must exactly match the information on file with our school system in order for the application to successfully submit.

Once families complete an application in the portal, the computer system will notify them of their successful submission. Upon verification, the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services will then mail the household a P-EBT debit card loaded with a one-time benefit. Benefits will be available for 365 days.

For more information, visit louisianabelieves.com or contact the LAHelpU Customer Service Center at LaHELPU.DCFS@la.gov or 1-888-524-3578. Families who need food assistance can also call 211 to inquire about food pantries and other available resources in their communities.

CEP School Letter

Dear {INSERT SCHOOL/NAME} Families,

Louisiana is offering families a second opportunity to receive financial benefits from free and reduced-price school meals that were missed when schools closed in 2019-2020 due to the pandemic. If your child received free or reduced-price meals this past spring and you did not apply for the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program in May and June, I encourage you to take advantage of the second application window open from September 8 at 8 a.m. until September 29 at 5 p.m.

As a Community Eligibility Provision school where every child receives free and reduced-price meals, all students who attended our school this past spring are eligible, regardless of income. This second application period is only for families of the estimated 264,111 students statewide who did not apply to receive P-EBT benefits during the initial window. If you did not apply for these benefits in May and June, you are still eligible to apply now.

These one-time benefits, which total \$285 per child, intend to cover 50 school days, from the onset of statewide school facility closures in March through the end of the 2019-2020 academic year. Parents who applied for free meals in May, after the P-EBT program was announced, will receive \$91.20 per eligible child, which covers the cost of meals for 16 school days in May.

The application will be available in a P-EBT portal on the Louisiana Department of Education website at louisianabelieves.com. State officials expect considerable interest in the program and ask applicants to be patient in trying to access the portal.

The online application is simple, requiring only a name, address, school district and school. Social security numbers, while helpful, are not required. The information submitted by the family, however, must exactly match the information on file with our school system in order for the application to successfully submit.

Once families complete an application in the portal, the computer system will notify them of their successful submission. Upon verification, the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services will then mail the household a P-EBT debit card loaded with a one-time benefit. Benefits will be available for 365 days.

For more information, visit louisianabelieves.com or contact the LAHelpU Customer Service Center at LaHELPU.DCFS@la.gov or 1-888-524-3578. Families who need food assistance can also call 211 to inquire about food pantries and other available resources in their communities.

Student Information System Text Message to Families

Louisiana is reopening the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program for families who did not apply in May and June. Families of children who receive free or reduced-price school meals may be eligible to receive financial benefits for meals missed in 2019-2020 when schools closed due to the pandemic. Visit louisianabelieves.com to apply from September 8 at 8 a.m. to September 29 at 5 p.m. This new application window is only for eligible families who did not apply in May and June. These one-time benefits total \$285 per child. Parents who applied for free meals in May, after the P-EBT program was announced, will receive \$91.20 per eligible child. The online application is simple, requiring only a name, address, school district and school. Social security numbers, while helpful, are not required. The information submitted must exactly match the information on file with the school system in order for the application to successfully submit.

Facebook or Instagram Message to Families

Louisiana is reopening the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program for families who did not apply in May and June. Families of children who receive free or reduced-price school meals may be eligible to receive financial benefits for meals missed in 2019-2020 when schools closed due to the pandemic. Visit louisianabelieves.com to apply from September 8 at 8 a.m. to September 29 at 5 p.m. These one-time benefits total \$285 per child. Parents who applied for free meals in May will receive \$91.20 per eligible child. The online application is simple. The information submitted must exactly match the information on file with the school system in order for the application to successfully submit.

{INSERT LINK TO APPLICATION PORTAL}

<https://pebt.doe.louisiana.gov/PublicApps/SNP>

Twitter Message to Families

Louisiana's reopening P-EBT for families who did not apply in May & June. Families of children who receive free or reduced-price school meals may be eligible to receive financial benefits for meals missed in 2019-20 when schools closed due to the pandemic.

{INSERT LINK TO APPLICATION PORTAL}

<https://pebt.doe.louisiana.gov/PublicApps/SNP>