

The Virgin Islands Consortium

DHS Announces P-EBT for Children in School During School Year 2021-2022

Community Center / **Published On August 19, 2022 06:54 AM /**

Staff Consortium **August 19, 2022**



The V.I. Department of Human Services announced Thursday that the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Services has approved the Virgin Islands School Year 2021-2022 Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Territorial Plan for School Children. As a result of the FNS approval, DHS will begin issuing P-EBT benefits to eligible school children on Monday, August 22.

P-EBT, an abbreviation for Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer, is a benefit that basically provides food assistance via an Electronic Benefit Card that can be used in participating grocery stores and convenience stores for food items. Unlike regular SNAP, which is renewable based on eligibility, PEBT is a one-time benefit issuance for a

particular School Year.

Benefits are available for all Virgin Islands SNAP and non-SNAP households with children who were enrolled in locally registered public and private schools, grades (K – 12) who have temporarily lost access to free meals due to pandemic-related public and private school closures or due to Covid related absences. Only children who were enrolled in schools which participate in the National School Lunch Program will be eligible for P-EBT.

"I am very pleased that DHS will have another opportunity to issue a new round of P-EBT to assist our children and families during this time where food prices have escalated," said D.H.S. Commissioner Kimberly Causey-Gomez. "Since 2020, DHS has issued over \$29 million in P-EBT benefits to over 17,000 children in the Virgin Islands. I commend the diligent staff of the Division of Family Assistance who have once again gained approval of our V.I. P-EBT Plan from FNS."

Those eligible for School Year 2021-2022 P-EBT:

1. All students (K through Grade 12) who were enrolled in USVI public and private schools for the school year 2020- 2021 and participated in the National School Lunch Program.
2. Students who attended school in the following learning mode: Full Virtual or Hybrid-Mix of Virtual and In-Person.
3. There is no application process. The Virgin Islands Department of Education and eligible private or parochial schools provided DHS the names of students enrolled for the 2021- 2022 school year.

P-EBT for School Year 2021-2022 will be issued in the following manner:

1. For eligible children who currently receive Regular SNAP, benefits will be loaded on the household's existing EBT card.
 2. For eligible children who do not receive SNAP but were issued a card for P-EBT in the past rounds, their P-EBT benefits will be automatically loaded to those cards.
 3. If you lost or damaged your P-EBT Card, contact the P-EBT hotline at (340) 772-7120, email pebt@dhs.vi.gov or come to the DFA Issuance Offices located at Knud Hansen Complex (St. Thomas) or DHS Mars Hill to pick up a card. Picture IDs are required.
-
1. For new, eligible Non-SNAP Children: New P-EBT Cards will be mailed to the addresses provided by the parents or guardians to
 2. The card will be issued in the student's name. Households with more than one eligible student will receive multiple cards. b. Instructions will be provided on how to set-up and utilize the card to access their benefits.

5. DHS will issue monthly P-EBT benefits for SNAP and Non-SNAP school children beginning August 22, 2022. The schedule is to issue 2 months of P-EBT benefits per day.

<i>Process Day</i>	<i>Description</i>
<i>August 22, 2022</i>	<i>Issue August and September 2022</i>
<i>August 23, 2022</i>	<i>Issue October and November 2022</i>
<i>August 24, 2022</i>	<i>Issue December and January 2023 benefits</i>
<i>August 25, 2022</i>	<i>Issue February and March 2022 benefits</i>
<i>August 26, 2022</i>	<i>Issue April 2022 and May 2022 benefits</i>

6. The Virgin Islands has a Standard P-EBT Benefit of \$8.28 per day. For a Full Virtual Month Learning Mode, Children will be issued 17 days x \$8.28 or \$140.76 per month. For a Hybrid (Virtual and InPerson) Learning Mode, Children will receive \$8.28 per Virtual day in each month. Note: DHS received the specific information from each private/parochial school and the V.I. Department of Education to determine the benefits each child will receive for School Year 2021-2022 P-EBT.

7. Please note that the amounts being issued to children for school year (2021-2022) may be less than the previous school year (2020-2021) because some children attended school in person for a longer period.