

Dear Families,

Because COVID-19 closed our schools, your children may be eligible for food assistance, called Pandemic EBT (P-EBT): Emergency School Meals Program.

P-EBT provides families with funds to make up for the cost of meals while school was closed. This benefit is for Washington children in grades k-12 who receive free or reduced-price school meals. These benefits will be on an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card which is used like a debit card to buy groceries.

If your family has lost income since schools closed, you may be eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. You can find out if you are eligible and how to apply by calling 360-864-2395 or go online to www.toledoschools.us.

Every eligible child may receive **up to a maximum of \$399** of P-EBT. Immigration status does not matter for P-EBT – it is not Basic Food and will not count in a public charge test. P-EBT is intended to replace meals missed while schools closed due to COVID-19. Children are allowed to get free meals from school and community sites and get P-EBT at the same time – they are separate programs.

If your family does not receive Basic Food, you must apply for P-EBT if you want to receive the funds. The application will be open by June 30. There are two ways to apply:

- Go to: www.WashingtonConnection.org, or
- Call DSHS at 877-501-2233

See the attached flyer for more information about P-EBT.

We want to make sure all of our students stay healthy and grow strong.

Sincerely,

Chris Rust, Superintendent
Toledo School District
116 Ramsey Way
Toledo, WA 98591

Toledo School District does not discriminate in any program or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employee has been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Title IX Coordinator, Section 504/ADA Coordinator, Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator, Chris Rust PO Box 469 Toledo, WA 98591, 360-864-6325, crust@toledoschools.us.



Pandemic EBT (P-EBT): Emergency School Meals Program

Get help buying groceries while schools are closed

Does your child receive free or reduced-price school meals or does your child's school provide all meals free?

YES

NO

Do you receive Basic Food benefits?

YES

NO

You will automatically receive P-EBT on your EBT Card.

Benefits will be added to your EBT card by July 7.

You need to apply for P-EBT by visiting WashingtonConnection.org or by calling 877-501-2233.

Your EBT card will arrive in the mail within 35 business days of applying (application will open by June 30).

Call your local school to apply for free/reduced-price school meals and then apply for P-EBT

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Students going to a K-12 school that offers a school lunch program during the school year AND

- Is eligible for free or reduced-price school meals; OR
- Is attending a school where meals are free for all students

CAN IMMIGRANT HOUSEHOLDS APPLY?

Yes. Using P-EBT benefits does not count as a public charge. P-EBT does not change a parent or child's immigration status. P-EBT replaces school meals and are for all families that receive free and reduced-price school meals.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

For children who received free or reduced-price meals when schools closed in March, each family will get \$399 per child. For families that enrolled in Basic Food or applied for school meal benefits after schools closed, each child will get less than that. The value depends on when you applied for food assistance.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Applications for P-EBT must be completed by August 31, 2020 or before the start of the 2020-2021 school year—whichever is later.
- If you need help understanding your eligibility or how to apply for benefits, see the Frequently Asked Questions at k12.wa.us/PEBT or call Department of Social and Health Services at 877-501-2233.

Your benefits card will look like this:



Washington Office of Superintendent of **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

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