

# WIN-E-MAC SCHOOL DISTRICT

RANDY BRUER, SUPERINTENDENT

www.win-e-mac.k12.mn.us

Phone: (218)563-2900

23130 345<sup>th</sup> Street SE  
Erskine, MN 56535  
Kevin McKeever, Principal

DISTRICT FAX: (218)563-2107  
H.S./ELEM. FAX: (218)563-2902

February 26, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardian,

Students who qualify for Free and Reduced Priced Meals may be eligible for Pandemic-Electronic Benefit Transfer (**P-EBT**) to purchase food for days they are not in the school district building. To be considered for this benefit, parents need to submit an application for free and reduced meals for the 20-21 school year (if you have not already completed) or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program (SNAP) or Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP). Families are only eligible if you apply during the 20-21 school year. Benefits may be retroactive to September 2020, depending on when your eligibility for free and reduced meals is determined. To ensure you qualify, please submit your application as soon as possible. You do not need to fill one out if you have done so already.

**IMPORTANT: Households that qualify for FRP meals but have not yet submitted an Application for Educational Benefits for the 2020-21 school year should do so as soon as possible.** In addition, households must have a current mailing address on file with the school in order to receive the P-EBT card in the mail.

The District really needs your help if you have not filled out this application. We are in the process of looking at potential cuts because of the reduced number of applications. This has affected a deduction of \$120,000 of Compensatory revenue to the district and this will compound so please get your application into the district.

## Submission Date of Application for Educational Benefits

By February 28, 2021  
March 1 – June 11, 2021

## Months eligible for P-EBT Benefits

September 2020 through June 2021  
March 2021 through June 2021

## **Available Now! Online Free and Reduced Applications for Win-E-Mac ISD 2609**

Now you can apply on-line for your children to receive free or reduced-price school meals. Your application will be sent from a secure web site directly to Win-E-Mac ISD 2609 so, you do not need to worry about filling out a paper form that could be lost or misplaced. [www.LunchApplication.com](http://www.LunchApplication.com) has been designed to make it easy for you to know exactly what information you need to provide and to guide you through the process. Once your application has been received the district office will determine your eligibility and send you a letter with the results. [www.LunchApplication.com](http://www.LunchApplication.com) is an easy, secure and convenient way to apply for free or reduced meals. To apply, simply go to [www.LunchApplication.com](http://www.LunchApplication.com) and click **Apply Now**. We have also put the application on our website for easy access at [wemschools.org](http://wemschools.org)

Randy Bruer, Superintendent



ISD #2609

Win-E-Mac School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer



## Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Information

### What is P-EBT?

Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) is a federal temporary emergency nutrition benefit that is loaded on electronic cards for families to purchase food. P-EBT was first implemented for the end of the 2019-20 school year. Congress made changes to the program for the 2020-21 school year, including the addition of a school learning model component to determine eligibility. P-EBT is jointly implemented by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS).



### Eligibility

Eligibility for P-EBT for the 2020-21 school year differs significantly from eligibility during the 2019-20 school year. Families who received P-EBT in the 2019-20 school year are not automatically eligible for this year's benefits. There are two elements to eligibility for the 2020-21 school year. Each student must be eligible, and the school they attend must be eligible.

### Students

Students who attend eligible schools and qualify for free or reduced-price (FRP) meals will receive P-EBT benefits based on a calculation that includes the number of distance learning and hybrid days each month at their school.

**IMPORTANT: Households that qualify for FRP meals but have not yet submitted an Application for Educational Benefits for the 2020-21 school year should do so as soon as possible.** In addition, households must have a current mailing address on file with the school in order to receive the P-EBT card in the mail. [View a P-EBT message for families in multiple languages.](#)

### Schools

In addition, students must attend an eligible school. Schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program (or would have if not for the COVID-19 health emergency) become eligible after they are closed or operating with reduced hours or attendance for at least five consecutive days in the current school year. This includes distance learning or hybrid school learning models. Schools with an in-person learning model that have students who elected distance learning are also eligible, but only for the students who chose distance learning.

## Key Messages for Families

- There is no P-EBT application for school year 2020-21. Instead, students will be issued benefits based on the learning model and free or reduced-price meal data submitted to MDE by their school.
- Due to a waiver from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), many Minnesota students are receiving meals at no cost (regardless of income) from their school this year. Receiving meals at no cost does not make them eligible for P-EBT. Families can contact their school to verify if they were approved for free or reduced-price meals based on household income requirements.
- To be eligible for P-EBT, children must meet one of the following qualifications:
  - Receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) or Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
  - Approved for free or reduced-price meals through the Application for Educational Benefits for the 2020-21 school year
  - Enrolled in a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school
- P-EBT benefit amounts will be calculated based on the school's learning model each month. Benefits will be issued when one of the following situations occur:
  - When the school reports distance learning for a majority of the month
  - When the school reports hybrid learning for a majority of the month
  - When the student elects distance learning for at least eleven days in a month
- All students approved for free or reduced-price meals will receive P-EBT benefits retroactive to September for the months they meet the learning model requirement. Applications approved by February 28, 2021 will be included in the first round of benefits issued in late March.
- Families can take two steps right now, if they think they qualify for P-EBT:
  - Make sure the school has their current address and contact information.
  - Submit an Application for Educational Benefits to their child's school (if not already receiving SNAP, MFIP, Tribal TANF or attending a CEP school).
- Families will receive a new P-EBT card for each eligible child. The dollar amount may differ for each child in a family depending on the learning model for each school and grade level.