Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your children may be eligible to receive a pre-loaded Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card that can be used to purchase groceries. You children may be eligible for Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) benefits if:

1. Your child previously attended a school participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) at some point after the start of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, or the child enrolled in kindergarten as a virtual or homeschooled student in school year 2020-2021 or later, **and**
2. Your child is not attending a National School Lunch Program (NSLP)-participating school *due to concerns about COVID-19*, **and**
3. Your child would have been eligible for free or reduced-price meals at their NSLP school if not for their virtual or homeschool status.

To learn if your children qualify for P-EBT benefits, complete the enclosed Application for P-EBT Benefits for Homeschool and Virtual Students. Note: Applying for this P-EBT benefits does not make your child eligible to receive free meals at school if they are currently enrolled as a virtual or homeschooled student.

## Commonly Asked Questions:

1. **What is P-EBT?** Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) is a temporary federal program that provides food benefits to Minnesota families with children who would have received free or reduced-price meals if schools were open. To learn more **about P-EBT, please visit** [State Guidance on Coronavirus P-EBT | Food and Nutrition Service (usda.gov)](https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/state-guidance-coronavirus-pandemic-ebt-pebt).
2. **Can my child get P-EBT if my family receives other assistance programs?** Children in households participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), and foster, homeless, migrant and runaway children can get P-EBT benefits without reporting household income. Alternatively, children can get P-EBT benefits if their household income is within the maximum income shown for their household size on the instructions.
3. **Are homeschooled or fully virtual students eligible for P-EBT benefits if they are approved for free or reduced school meals?** Not necessarily. Homeschooled or fully virtual students qualify for P-EBT if all criteria below are met:
	1. Child previously attended a school participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) at some point after the start of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, or the child enrolled in kindergarten as a virtual or homeschooled student in school year 2020-2021 or later, **and**
	2. Child is not attending an NSLP-participating school *due to concerns about COVID-19*, **and**
	3. Child would have been eligible for free or reduced-price meals at their NSLP school if not for the their virtual or homeschool status.
4. **I get Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) or Medical Assistance. Can my children get P-EBT benefits?** Children in households participating in WIC or Medical Assistance do not automatically qualify for P-EBT benefits. Children may be eligible for P-EBT benefits depending on other household financial information. Please fill out an application and return it with appropriate financial documentation.
5. **Who should I include as household members?** Include yourself and all other people living in the household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives or friends).
6. **May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen?** Yes. You or your children do not have to be U.S. citizens for your children to qualify for P-EBT benefits.
7. **What if my income is not always the same?** List the amount that you normally get. If you normally get overtime, include it, but not if you get overtime only sometimes. For seasonal work, write in the total annual income.
8. **Will the income information or case number I give be checked?** It may be. We also ask you to send written documentation.
9. **How will the information be kept?** Information you provide on the form, and your child’s approval for P-EBT benefits, will be protected as private data. For more information, see the back page of the Application for P-EBT Benefits for Homeschool and Virtual Students.
10. **If I don’t qualify now, may I apply later?** Yes. Please complete an application at any time if your income goes down, your household size goes up, or you start getting SNAP, MFIP or FDPIR benefits.

Please submit your child’s application and return it, with appropriate financial documentation, to the school your child either attended in the past or the school they would be enrolled in if you had no COVID-19 concerns.

The information requested about children’s racial identity and ethnicity is requested to assure us the application reached all community members. This information is not required for approval of P-EBT benefits.

If you have other questions or need help, call [*phone number*].

Return your completed Application for P-EBT Benefits for Homeschool and Virtual Students to:

Rush City Schools

Attn: District Office

PO Box 566

Rush City, MN 55069

Sincerely,

Brent Stavig