

Washington SUN Bucks Summer EBT Program



Welcome to the DSHS SUN Bucks website! SUN Bucks is a new food benefit available to an estimated 550,000 children in Washington state. Families with eligible school-aged children will get \$120 per child to buy groceries during the summer while free and reduced-price meals aren't available in schools.

How to enroll in SUN Bucks

Most children will be **automatically enrolled** without having to apply if, between July 1, 2023, and Aug. 31, 2024, they were:

1. Enrolled at a school that offers the National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program **AND** individually approved for free or reduced-price meals at school **OR**
2. Age 8-18 and a member of a household that receives benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Food Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or State-Funded Assistance.

Children who automatically receive free or reduced-price meals at Community Eligibility Provision or Provision 2 schools will need to submit a meal application or Family Income Survey to their school for automatic enrollment.

Students who are **not automatically enrolled** may qualify by submitting a SUN Bucks application if they are:

1. Enrolled at an NSLP or SBP participating school **AND**
2. Living in a household with income that meets NSLP Income Eligibility Guidelines to qualify for free or reduced-price meals.

*Applications will be available primarily online at sunbucks.dshs.wa.gov starting early July through Aug. 31, 2024. **More information will be released soon!***



STARTING SUMMER 2024,
grocery benefits will be
available to eligible families
with school-age children
during summer break.

How will I know my child has been enrolled into SUN Bucks?
Each eligible child will receive an approval letter. A dedicated SUN Bucks card will arrive about seven to 10 business days later.



Sign up for text messaging to be notified if you have been automatically enrolled, the status of your application and other general SUN Bucks information.

You can also call the SUN Bucks Contact Center at 833-543-3230 (TTY: 1-800-833-6348) between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday–Friday (except observed holidays).

What else should I know about SUN Bucks?

All children receiving free and reduced-price meals at school won't automatically qualify.

SUN Bucks requires students to meet Income Eligibility Guidelines. CEP and Provision 2 schools don't require income verification to qualify for free and reduced-price meals, so families with children attending these schools will need to submit a Family Income Survey or meal application to qualify. These Income Guidelines are revised on July 1 of every year; the income limits used to determine SUN Bucks eligibility are the limits in place on the date of application.

SUN Bucks cards can be used at any authorized retailers nationwide where EBT is accepted on uncooked: fruits, veggies, meat, dairy products, breads and cereals, snack foods, non-alcoholic beverages, seeds and plants that produce food.

SUN Bucks benefits expire within 122 days from the time they were issued. This is different from SNAP or Pandemic EBT benefits that expire 274 days from the date of last use. Be sure to use your SUN Bucks benefits over the summer period!

If you don't want to participate in SUN Bucks, simply discard the SUN Bucks card and they will expire 122 days after issuance.

SUN Bucks is not the same as Pandemic EBT, which ended in 2023. Eligibility requirements and benefit amounts differ between the two programs, and SUN Bucks is a new permanent program where Pandemic EBT was temporary support during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Quick Links

[Joint News Release](#)

[USDA/FNS SUN Bucks](#)

[Summer Meals for Kids Site Finder](#)

[United Way King County Additional Family, School Resources](#)

[SUN Meals and Snacks for Kids](#)

[SUN Meals to Go](#)

[ebtEDGE](#)

[OSPI Meal Application and Verification Information](#)