



Summer EBT/SUN Bucks: Louisiana Launches New Program to Improve Food Access for Kids During Summer Break

In summer 2024, Louisiana will launch Summer EBT/SUN Bucks, a new grocery benefits program that provides families \$120 for each eligible school-aged child to buy groceries when school is out. Summer is a time when many children lose the free and reduced-price meals they get at school, and when households might need a little extra help putting meals on the table. Most families will get these benefits automatically, but some parents will need to apply. The new program is in addition to free meals that kids of all ages can get at summer meal sites in their communities.

Benefits of Summer EBT/SUN Bucks

- Helps parents and caregivers buy healthy foods for their children.
- Gives families the flexibility to select foods that fit their culture and lifestyle.
- Improves food security and diet quality for participating children.

Eligibility

Children are eligible for the program if:

- the household already participates in **SNAP, TANF, or Medicaid (income eligible)** OR
- the child attends a school that offers the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Program and the household income meets the requirements for free or reduced-price school meals.

Enrollment

Many families will get **Summer EBT/SUN Bucks** automatically if they are getting other benefits, but some families may need to apply.

- If the household already participates in **SNAP, TANF, Medicaid (income eligible)**, they will be automatically enrolled in the **Summer EBT** program. Households do not need to fill out an application.
- If the household is not automatically enrolled and may be eligible, they can get **Summer EBT/SUN Bucks** by filling out an application.

More information about the program will be available at <https://sunbucks.la.gov>.

How Summer EBT/SUN Bucks Works

The benefits will be provided on an EBT card (same card for students already receiving SNAP) and can be used to buy groceries. Families will receive \$120 per eligible child for the summer. Benefits can be used at authorized retailers, like grocery stores and farmers markets, to purchase healthy foods like fruits, vegetables, meats and other protein sources, whole grains, and dairy. Visit <https://sunbucks.la.gov> to learn more.

Help Families in Your Community

- Spread the word to families in your community! Let households know about the new **Summer EBT/SUN Bucks** program.
- Encourage families who receive benefits through **SNAP, TANF, or Medicaid (income eligible)**, to make sure their mailing address is up to date.
- Tell families who are automatically enrolled to watch for their card in the mail and ensure their address is up-to-date and on file.
- Inform households that immigrant and non-U.S. citizens are eligible for **Summer EBT/SUN Bucks**. Participation does not impact immigration status.
- Encourage families who may have eligible children to apply.
- Alert families to fill out an application when available, and to have the child's name, address, date of birth, school system, school name, and student ID.

Children and teens need healthy food year-round to play, grow, and learn. **Summer EBT/SUN Bucks** will help families stretch their grocery budget during the summer and provide their children with the nutrition they need to thrive. Visit <https://sunbucks.la.gov> to learn more about this exciting new program. Together, we can make summer brighter for our children.