Summer 2022 P-EBT Benefits

The Family and Social Service Administration (FSSA) Division of Family Resources issued summer 2022 Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) benefits on Monday, July 18. Eligible students were pulled from IDOE's Data Exchange under the criteria of all free or reduced lunch eligible students enrolled on May 1 who had not been reported as moving out of state before the end of the school year. This list included all students enrolled in Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) schools. There may be some confusion among households because their student received free meals; they feel they should also receive the P-EBT benefits. Only students identified as free or reduced qualifying in the Data Exchange for the 2021-2022 school year will be eligible for P-EBT benefits. If you applied and were approved after May 1, 2022, you would not qualify.

Households that have current cards should see benefits added to the card as of Monday, July 18. FSSA's online system has been overwhelmed by the number of requests for new or replacement cards and is experiencing delays in response times. Response times at this time are around two weeks from the date of initial submission. FSSA has requested that once a household has completed the request online, they do not complete a duplicate request.

How sponsors can communicate with households about P-EBT:

- Remind households who have current cards that benefits should be loaded as of Monday, July 18.
- Guide those who need to submit a new or replacement card request to <u>FSSA's P-EBT website</u>.
- Assure households who have completed the FSSA online form that there is a two-week delay in the response time for online requests.
- Encourage households to only submit one request in the online portal to reduce the number of responses.

Corporations that have questions about the data used for their school(s) can submit a request to the IDOE Data Reporting Help Desk.