

Maximizing the Impact of USDA's Summer Nutrition Programs for Your Students

FOR SCHOOL NUTRITION PROFESSIONALS

New Ways to Address Child Summer Hunger

A healthier future for our country begins with our children. Unfortunately, many children face hunger during the summer when they lose access to school meals. Children need good nutrition to grow, learn, and thrive. There are new tools to address summer hunger, including Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (Summer EBT), and a new flexible way to offer meals to children living in hard-to-reach, rural communities.

USDA's Summer Nutrition Programs Benefit Your Students

The programs help:

- **Provide consistent nutrition access.**
For many students, the meals provided at school are the most nutritious meals they eat. Expanding options for accessing healthy meals and groceries in the summer offers families more options to ensure their children are nourished year-round.
- **Reduce summer hunger.**
Together with in-person summer meal sites, Summer EBT and the new option for to-go/home-delivered meals in rural areas can dramatically reduce summertime child hunger nationwide.
 - **Summer EBT is proven to reduce hunger.**
Research shows that providing families with summer grocery benefits can reduce child hunger by 33 percent.¹
- **Offset food costs.**
Summer EBT helps offset higher food costs. Families receive \$120 per eligible child during summer on EBT cards to buy food at grocery stores and other food retailers authorized to accept Summer EBT.

¹ Food and Nutrition Service. (2016). Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer for Children (SEBTC) Demonstration: Summary Report. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/sebt/demonstration-summary-report>



Three Ways to Combat Summer Hunger

There are now three flexible ways to reduce child hunger in the summer:

1. In-person group meal service
2. Summer EBT **NEW!**
3. To-go/delivery meal service in rural areas **NEW!**

Learn how all three options can work together to address summer hunger and help fuel children with the nutrition they need when school is out.



Key Steps You Can Take to Maximize Summer Nutrition Options for Students



Champion Summer Meals

Start or expand summer meal services in your school district.

Many schools are already fighting hunger by operating as a summer meal sponsor or site. Whether your site provides in-person or to-go/home-delivered meal options for children in rural communities, summer meals are crucial to addressing child hunger. [Learn how to sponsor a summer meal site.](#)



Educate Families

Encourage families to use Summer EBT. If your State, Indian Tribal Organization, or Territory offers Summer EBT, make sure eligible families know how to access it. School nutrition professionals have a unique ability to inform families about all food assistance programs available to them. Connect with your State agency to start planning for this summer!



Support Public Outreach

Inform families about meal service options. Students and families are still learning what summer nutrition options are available to them. Help spread the word about Summer EBT, in-person, and rural to-go/home-delivered meal services available in your community.



Reduce Summer Hunger. You have the power to make a difference for your students, school district, and community.

Learn more >

