



Williamsport Area School District

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What is SUN Bucks?

Starting in the summer of 2024, states, territories, and certain tribal nations can provide households \$40 per summer month (\$120 maximum) per eligible child. This Summer EBT benefit will allow households to buy groceries in similar fashion to using SNAP benefits. SUN Bucks will work with other USDA nutrition programs to connect every eligible child with the food they need in the summer

Who needs to apply for SUN Bucks?

Most children who are eligible for SUN Bucks do not need to apply. Children who are not directly certified, categorically eligible, or approved for free or reduced-price meals via a household application for free/reduced school meals must apply for SUN Bucks through DHS. **Children attending Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) schools where all students receive meals at no cost may also need to apply for SUN Bucks if they cannot be directly certified and are not categorically eligible.**

Use the [Eligibility Navigator](#) to determine if your child is eligible for SUN Bucks and whether you need to apply.

How do households apply for 2024 SUN Bucks benefit?

Most children will be automatically eligible for SUN Bucks and will not need to apply. Only households who are not automatically eligible should apply. To apply for SUN Bucks for summer of 2024, households will need to complete a SUN Bucks application through DHS. In July, the application will be available as a fillable PDF in both English and Spanish on the DHS SUN Bucks webpage and paper copies will also be available upon request at the [County Assistance Office \(CAO\)](#).

The application is expected to be available July 1, 2024. Applications must be submitted by August 31, 2024 in order to receive SUN Bucks in 2024.

When do I apply for SUN Bucks?

Most children who are eligible for SUN Bucks will not need to apply. If you use the [Eligibility Navigator](#) and determine that your child will not be automatically eligible for SUN Bucks, **you can apply beginning July 1, 2024**. All applications for the summer of 2024 must be submitted by August 31, 2024.

How much will eligible children receive, and when will they receive it?

Each household will receive maximum \$120 per eligible child (the equivalent of \$40 per summer month). DHS will begin issuing the benefits around mid-August through September 2024. Benefits are expunged four (4) months after the date of issuance, meaning that households have four months to spend the benefit after issuance.

How can the SUN Bucks benefit be used?

The SUN Bucks benefit can be used just like traditional SNAP benefits. The card can be used at approved food retailers, such as grocery stores and convenience stores. SNAP and SUN Bucks benefits cannot be used to purchase hot, prepared foods, even at grocery stores and convenience stores. Both SNAP benefits and SUN Bucks can be used to purchase seeds.

How long do I have to spend my SUN Bucks benefit?

After the SUN Bucks benefit is issued, you have four (4) months to spend the benefit. After four months, you will no longer be able to use the benefit.

Will we receive the benefit all together at one time, or in multiple payments during the summer?

You will receive the benefit in one issuance of \$120 this year for each eligible child. DHS will begin issuing the benefits beginning around mid-August through September 2024.

What should I do with my SUN Bucks card after I use my benefit?

Since SUN Bucks is a permanent program, DHS will be attempting to reuse cards in future years whenever possible. Households who receive a SUN Bucks card for their children should keep those cards in case they are reloaded for future summers.

Why did I receive the SUN Bucks benefit if I didn't apply?

You may have received a benefit even though you didn't apply because your child is automatically eligible for SUN Bucks.

If you would like to decline SUN Bucks benefits and received the benefits on a newly issued Summer EBT card, you can simply destroy the card.

If you would like to decline SUN Bucks benefits and received the benefits on your SNAP or TANF EBT card, please contact the Statewide Customer Service Center at 1-877-395-8930 or 215-560-7226 in Philadelphia to opt out of the program.

What should I do if we should have received SUN Bucks benefits automatically but we have not?

SUN Bucks benefits will be distributed beginning around mid-August and all issuances will be complete by October 2024. If you have not received a notification about your eligibility for SUN Bucks by the end of August and believe that your child(ren) are automatically eligible, contact the Statewide Customer Service Center at 1-877-395-8930 or 215-560-7226 in Philadelphia.

What should I do if we got SUN Bucks benefits for one child but not another?

Distribution dates for Summer EBT will vary, so siblings might receive benefits at different times.

In addition, children who are not attending a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), such as a child who is homeschooled or a child who attends a private school that doesn't participate in the NSLP, must be between 6 and 18 at any point since July 2023 and in a household receiving SNAP, TANF or Medicaid with qualifying income for NSLP, in order to be eligible. This means that some children younger than 6 or older than 18 may not be eligible, even if a child in the same household is eligible.

What should I do if I applied for SUN Bucks benefits but still haven't received them?

SUN Bucks benefits issuances for paper applications will be complete by October 2024. If you have not received an eligibility determination after applying, by the end of October 2024, please contact the Statewide Customer Service Center at 1-877-395-8930 or 215-560-7226 in Philadelphia.

I applied for SUN Bucks for my child and was denied, but think my child is eligible. What can I do?

The written notice you receive with your eligibility determination includes information on how to appeal.

What should I do if I lose my card?

To request a replacement SNAP, TANF, or Summer EBT card, please contact your local CAO or the Statewide Customer Service Center at 1-877-395-8930 or 215-560-7226 in Philadelphia.

Resources for additional assistance:

- DHS SUN Bucks Webpage for Families - Summer EBT | Department of Human Services | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- Statewide Customer Service Center - 1-877-395-8930, or 1-215-560-7226 in Philadelphia
- CAO locator - <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/services/assistance/pages/cao-contact.aspx>