

Summer EBT/SUN Bucks Benefit and Family Resources

What is Summer EBT/SUN Bucks?

Midland Borough School District (MBSD) families recently received a letter regarding a new Summer EBT/SUN Bucks benefit. This new program called Summer EBT, or “SUN Bucks” has been authorized by a bipartisan U.S. Congress to provide food dollars to low-income families with school-aged children over the summer months. The program is proven to reduce food insecurity and improve children’s nutrition during summer break. Governor Shapiro’s administration announced that the Commonwealth would participate in this program beginning in the summer of 2024. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) oversees the program, and the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) coordinates the benefit issuance in Pennsylvania.

Who is Eligible?

Although all Midland Borough School District students receive free breakfast and lunch during the school year, MBSD students are only automatically eligible for 2024 Summer EBT/SUN Bucks IF they qualify for free or reduced-price school meals for any of these reasons:

1. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or
2. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or
3. Medical Assistance with income that qualifies them for the NSLP/SBP, or
4. Household meal application with income that qualifies, or
5. Are homeless, runaway, migrant, foster, or in Head Start

Important Note

Midland Borough School District operates a special program, **Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)**, that allows all students to receive free breakfast and lunch during the school year, regardless of each student’s economic level. However, Summer EBT/SUN Bucks is based on each student’s individual situation. MBSD students are not automatically eligible for Summer EBT/SUN Bucks unless they receive one of the benefits listed above under “Who is Eligible?”.

IF MBSD families do not receive one of the benefits listed above but believe they may qualify for the Summer EBT/SUN Bucks benefit (185% or less of the federal poverty level), they may submit a Summer EBT/SUN Bucks application on the DHS SUN Bucks webpage between July 1, 2024 and August 31, 2024. Applications will not be available until July 1, 2024 (See “Resources for Families” on the next page).

Benefit Issuance

For the summer of 2024, a household will receive \$120 Summer EBT/SUN Bucks benefit (which equals \$40 for each summer month) for every eligible child in the household.

DHS will issue the 2024 Summer EBT/SUN Bucks benefits from late August to September 2024 on the family’s existing state EBT card (for SNAP or TANF) or on a new SUN Bucks card that is mailed. This may seem late for a benefit intended to assist eligible children and families over the summer months. DHS is building new processes and systems to meet USDA guidelines for

this new program. Families are asked to be patient and understanding during this implementation year. The intent is for the benefit to be issued earlier in the summer break in future years.

Please note that Midland Borough School District cannot assist families with Summer EBT/SUN Bucks benefit questions. Schools cannot access the state's Summer EBT/SUN Bucks system or records.

Summer EBT/SUN Bucks Resources for Families

- DHS and their County Assistance Offices offer family support for Summer EBT/SUN Bucks.
- The DHS Summer EBT/SUN Bucks webpage for families can be found here: <http://www.dhs.pa.gov/SunBucks>. This webpage provides information about the benefit, Frequently Asked Questions, the SUN Bucks family application, and an eligibility navigator tool to help families determine if they need to apply.
- County Assistance Offices can provide family support for all Summer EBT/SUN Bucks questions. A CAO locator tool is found here: <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/services/assistance/pages/cao-contact.aspx>.
- The Statewide Customer Service Center can be reached by phone at 1-877-395-8930, or 1-215-560-7226 in Philadelphia.