

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The Wisconsin School Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (School P-EBT) program provides food benefits to the families of children who do not have access to free or reduced price meals at their school because they learned from home or were absent due to a COVID-related reason. This year, School P-EBT will operate under new eligibility guidelines, and benefits will only be issued on a case-by-case basis to families whose children and school meet certain conditions. Families may receive \$7.10 for each day that an eligible child learned from home or was absent due to a COVID-related reason.

To be considered for School P-EBT benefits, it is important that your child first be approved to receive free or reduced price meals at Arbor Vitae-Woodruff Elementary School. If your child is not already approved to receive free or reduced price meals, you should apply as soon as possible by visiting www.avwschool.org and accessing the Skyward Family Access link, on the Parents page, to complete an online application. Applications are located under Food Service, and can be started by clicking on "Applications" in the top middle section of the screen after you have selected the name of one of your children.

If you believe you are eligible and:

- you are new to this school or school district this year;
- your child did not get free or reduced price meals last school year;
- you recently had a change in income;
- you did not complete an application for the 21-22 school year, and previously qualified via an application in the 19-20 or 20-21 school year.

you should fill out an application for free or reduced price school meals.

While many schools are providing free meals to all students during the pandemic, this does NOT mean all students will automatically qualify for School P-EBT. School P-EBT relies on a child actually being enrolled to receive free or reduced price meals. Eligibility for School P-EBT benefits begins on the date a child is approved to receive free or reduced price meals by Arbor Vitae-Woodruff Elementary School or through your family's participation in other assistance programs (such as FoodShare). **This year, a student cannot receive benefits for any time before they were approved to receive free or reduced price meals.** Unlike last school year, School P-EBT benefits are not retroactive to the beginning of the school year.

Benefits will begin to be issued in early March 2022 to cover the months of August, September, and October 2021. Below is the full schedule of benefit issuance for the 2021-2022 school year, subject to changes.

Benefit Months*	Benefits Issued
August, September, October 2021	early March
November, December 2021	early April
January, February 2022	mid May
March, April 2022	mid June
May, June 2022	late July

* *Each issuance after the first one could also include benefits from previous months of the

school year as DHS continues to receive new information about eligible students in each school district.

To avoid delays in your child getting School P-EBT benefits if they are eligible:

- Submit a free or reduced price meal application to Arbor Vitae-Woodruff Elementary School if you haven't already.
- Be sure we have your correct mailing address on file.
- If you received School P-EBT during the 2020-2021 school year, be sure to keep your card because benefits for the 2021-2022 school year will be loaded onto that card.

Each time that your child is eligible for benefits, your family will likely receive a letter in the mail. These letters will indicate how much each child is receiving at that time for each month. Families eligible to get benefits who have an active QUEST card or P-EBT card from last year will have their benefits added onto that card. Families eligible to get benefits who do not have an active QUEST card or P-EBT card from last year will get a new P-EBT card in the mail with the benefits already loaded onto it.

For more information about P-EBT eligibility, when benefits will be available, and how benefits are provided, visit <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/forwardhealth-pebt.htm> or sign up for the Wisconsin Department of Health Services P-EBT email list at https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIDHS/subscriber/new?topic_id=WIDHS_626.