



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
PowerSchool Coordinators
Food Service Directors

FROM: Molly M. Spearman
State Superintendent of Education

DATE: January 5, 2021

RE: Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer Program

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE), partnering with the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS), developed and implemented a plan for participation in the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer Program (P-EBT). The SCDE and DSS have identified eligible participants by compiling the list of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligible students and Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) eligible students. The DSS is filing a plan to continue those benefits through the 2020-21 school year.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Services requires that all students eligible to receive the benefits be identified in the state plan and has developed guidelines for continuing the benefit. The guidelines for eligibility require that the schools' calendar must be impacted by five days of remote instruction and that the impacted students can be identified for each day that they were not able to receive direct benefits. The SCDE will use the Virtual Present code in PowerSchool to count the number of days students will receive benefits.

The introduction of a new attendance code requires a change of habit for teachers and attendance clerks, because student benefits are directly impacted by the quality of this data. Please review your students' attendance records for appropriate use of this attendance code so that eligible students receive P-EBT benefits. The DSS has developed an address verification system to ensure benefits are delivered to the correct household. The addresses are supplied through the information provided in PowerSchool. The SCDE offers an address validation service through Level Data to ensure those addresses are United States Postal Service CASS certified. The SCDE requests that districts use the address validation services to ensure families receive the benefits they need.

If you have any questions, please contact Dan Ralyea at DRalyea@ed.sc.gov.