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Summer EBT Collection Purpose:

Summer EBT was established as a permanent, nationwide program by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023. The program aims to reduce summer hunger by providing families with a grocery benefit similar to SNAP to feed their children when school is not in session. It was first piloted in 2011 in select states and proved so successful at reducing food insecurity and improving diet quality that it was slowly expanded to additional states. The summer component of Pandemic EBT, which operated on a similar model as Summer EBT and took its place from 2021-2023, also proved successful in supporting families. Pandemic EBT ended in summer 2023 following the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency, but since 2024, all states and territories can participate in Summer EBT.

Summer EBT eligibility:

In general, children who are income-eligible, able to be directly certified, or categorically eligible for free or reduced price (FRP) school meals and attend a school that operates the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), are eligible for Summer EBT. Some children may be eligible for Summer EBT without attending a school that participates in school meals programs. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has laid out two main pathways for confirming eligibility for Summer EBT:

Streamlined Certification: Streamlined certification is similar but distinct from direct certification in the NSLP and School Breakfast Programs (SBP). The idea of streamlined certification is to ensure that as many children as possible receive Summer EBT benefits automatically without parents/guardians having to take any direct action (i.e., submitting an application).

Summer EBT Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application or Family Economic Data Survey: Children who cannot be certified through any of the pathways listed above will have to apply to receive Summer EBT benefits by completing a free and reduced-price meal program or family economic data survey (FEDS form). Applications or FEDS forms can be accessed at the school or LEA that participates in NSLP.

The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) is working closely with the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) to implement Summer EBT. It has been determined that CDE LEAs/schools have the ability to provide the most up to date and accurate student information. Because it is the goal of USDA to have Summer EBT benefits issued at the BEGINNING of the summer, it is not feasible to use existing Student End of Year Data. Additionally, student/parent/home address information is needed and is not currently included in any other reporting requirement. Therefore, the Summer EBT program will require additional data collection similar to what was done previously for the Pandemic EBT (P-EBT).

Dependencies:

Student has been assigned a SASID and is updated in the RITS system.

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Record Expectation or Criteria:

For the S-EBT mandatory data collection, SFAs are required to report data using one of the following options:

1. Submit data for all students enrolled in National School Lunch Program sites only.
2. Submit data for all students enrolled in NSLP sites and data for any F/R eligible transfer students to non-NSLP sites during the school year (any student that was enrolled at a NSLP site, even for a short period of time, would be eligible for S-EBT benefits)
3. Submit data for all enrolled students at both NSLP sites and non-NSLP sites.

USDA allows two pathways to determine student eligibility for Summer EBT.

1. Streamlined Certification: Streamlined certification is similar but distinct from direct certification in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs (NSLP and SBP). The idea of streamlined certification is to ensure that as many children as possible receive Summer EBT benefits automatically without parents/guardians having to take any direct action (i.e., submitting an application). Streamlined certification includes:
    a. School-age children who are able to be directly certified because of their participation in other public assistance programs. This includes SNAP, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), and Medicaid.
    b. School-age children who are categorically eligible for free or reduced-price meals based on their participation in Head Start, or because of their homeless, foster, migrant, or runaway status. This is referred to as “Other Source Categorical Eligibility”.
    c. Children who have already been approved for free or reduced-price meals through direct certification, categorical eligibility, or by filling out a school meals application are automatically eligible for Summer EBT and must receive benefits without further application.
2. Summer EBT Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application or Family Economic Data Survey: Children who cannot be certified through any of the pathways listed above will have to apply for Summer EBT benefits. For Summer 2025, Colorado will utilize the existing alternative income forms as the Summer EBT Application as well as an official Summer EBT Application available online for parents/families to complete. These options allow applications to be collected in a routine fashion in advance of the summer period, potentially reducing confusion among families and the number of applications received near the end of the school year.

    Note: Parent permission is NOT required to collect data for S-EBT purposes. For more information refer to Senate Bill 23B-002.

    SECTION 1 (5)
    (A) EACH SCHOOL FOOD AUTHORITY SHALL PROVIDE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION THE MINIMUM STUDENT-LEVEL DATA NECESSARY TO GATHER AND MAINTAIN ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR THE PROGRAM BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE. THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL SHARE THE DATA WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM.

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(B) IN COLLECTING DATA FROM SCHOOL FOOD AUTHORITIES PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (5)(A) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE ADVANCED NOTICE DATA REPORTING REQUIREMENT DESCRIBED IN SECTION 22-2-306 (3)(A).

For more information about the requirements and guidance refer to the official documentation from the USDA.

File Notes:

- New changes from 2025-26 are emphasized with yellow shading.
- 🔑 Indicates primary key
- **Zero fill all non-applicable data fields**
- A header row is required for .csv and .xlsx files

All references to Local Education Agency (LEA) include district, BOCES, and CSI.

Data Field List:

Name of Field	Field Length	Text Start Position	Text End Position	CSV Order	Excel Column	Example(s)	Remarks
School District/BOCES Code	4	1	4	1	A2	0000	
School Code	4	5	8	2	B2	0000	
Entry Date	8	9	16	3	C2	08152021	Format is MMDDYYYY
Exit Withdraw Date	8	17	24	4	D2	10142021	Format is MMDDYYYY; 0 fill if non-applicable
Student's State ID (SASID) 🔑	10	25	34	5	E2	0000000000	
Local ID (LASID)	10	35	44	6	F2	0000000000	
Student's First Name	30	45	74	7	G2	Valid Name	
Student's Middle Name	30	75	104	8	H2	Valid Name	NMN if none
Student's Last Name	30	105	134	9	I2	Valid Name	
Student's Gender	2	135	136	10	J2	01, 02	
Student's Date of Birth	8	137	144	11	K2	08152008	Format is MMDDYYYY
Student's Grade Level	3	145	147	12	L2	060	

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Name of Field	Field Length	Text Start Position	Text End Position	CSV Order	Excel Column	Example(s)	Remarks
Student's Language Background	3	148	150	13	M2	ENG	
Primary Parent/Guardian First Name	30	151	180	14	N2	Valid Name	
Primary Parent/Guardian Last Name	30	181	210	15	O2	Valid Name	
Secondary Parent/Guardian First Name	30	211	240	16	P2	Valid Name	None if non-applicable
Secondary Parent/Guardian Last Name	30	241	270	17	Q2	Valid Name	None if non-applicable
Primary Parent/Guardian Telephone Number	10	271	280	18	R2	5551231234; None	
Primary Parent/Guardian Email Address	50	281	330	19	S2	example@email.com	None if non-applicable
Student's Primary Mailing Address 1	44	331	374	20	T2	123 Star Quarry Road	
Student's Primary Mailing Address 2	42	375	416	21	U2	Apt. 2	Try to avoid special characters, i.e., #,&, etc.
Student's Primary Mailing City	50	417	466	22	V2	Nowhere	
Student's Primary Mailing State	2	467	468	23	W2	CO	
Student's Primary Mailing Postal Code	10	469	478	24	X2	99999-0000, 99999	
Free/Reduced Lunch Price Eligible	2	479	480	25	Y2	00, 01, 02	
FRPL Eligibility Date	8	481	488	26	Z2	10152021	Format is MMDDYYYY

Data Field Descriptions:

Columns on File

A

School District/BOCES Code

A unique code assigned to a LEA by CDE. Refer to School District/BOCES Code table.

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B

School Code

A unique code assigned by CDE to a school building. Refer to School Building Code Table.

C

Entry Date

The month, day, and year on which a student enters and begins to receive an education program in a school for the 2025-2026 school year. (Use the same logic used as the Student Interchange - Student School Association data collection)

D

Exit Withdraw Date

The month, day, and year the student exited a school or grade in your LEA (i.e. 11052025). If the student completed the school year in your district and did not exit before the end of the school year, this field must be coded “00000000”. (Use the same logic used as the Student Interchange - Student School Association data collection)

E

Student's State ID (SASID)

A unique ten-digit number must be assigned to each student by CDE.

F

Local ID (LASID)

The student's Locally Assigned Student ID (LASID). LEAs may zero-fill if they choose not to use a LASID.

G

Student's First Name

A name given to an individual at birth, baptism, or during another naming ceremony, or through legal change.

H

Student's Middle Name

A secondary name given to an individual at birth, baptism, or during another naming ceremony, or through legal change. Blanks are NOT allowed. Use NMN (no middle name) where appropriate.

I

Student's Last Name

The name borne in common by members of a family.

J

Student's Gender

An individual's sex.

Code	Description
01	Female
02	Male
03	Non-binary

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K

Student's Date of Birth

The month, day, and year (MMDDYYYY) on which an individual was born (i.e. 09151989).

L

Student's Grade Level

The grade level or primary instructional level at which a student enters a school or an educational institution during a given school year.

Code	Description
002	Infant
004	Pre-Kindergarten (Preschool)
006	Half Day Kindergarten (450+ hours)
007	Full Day Kindergarten (900+ hours)
010	Grade 1
020	Grade 2
030	Grade 3
040	Grade 4
050	Grade 5
060	Grade 6
070	Grade 7
080	Grade 8
090	Grade 9
100	Grade 10
110	Grade 11
120	Grade 12

M

Language Background

Any student, who has a language proficiency code of Non-English Proficient (NEP), Limited English Proficient (LEP), Fluent English Proficient (FEP), Primary or Home Language Other Than English (PHLOTE), or Former EL (FELL), must have a language background other than English (ENG). You can download an excel file with the list of active and inactive language codes from this site.

Note: Coding ASL (American Sign Language)

American Sign Language (ASL) is considered English. Students should not be considered a Multilingual Learner an English learner solely because of their reliance on ASL for communication due to deafness or hearing impairment. If it is determined there is a language influence other than

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English, ‘eng’, through a HLS, the process of English learner standardized Identification should be followed. Administer screener assessment (K Screener/WIDA Screener), build a body of evidence, and determine language proficiency as NEP or LEP.

N

Primary Parent/Guardian First Name

A name given to an individual at birth, baptism, or during another naming ceremony, or through legal change. This person is the legal parent or guardian of the student and is considered the Head of Household. This field is needed for the purpose of mailing the S-EBT card to the student.

O

Primary Parent/Guardian Last Name

The name borne in common by members of a family. The person is the legal parent or guardian of the student and is considered the Head of Household. This field is needed for the purpose of mailing the S-EBT card to the student.

P

Secondary Parent/Guardian First Name

A name given to an individual at birth, baptism, or during another naming ceremony, or through legal change. This person is the legal parent or guardian of the student and will be able to redeem benefits if the primary parent/guardian is unavailable (for example, the primary parent/guardian is incarcerated or deceased). If there is no secondary parent/guardian on file, enter “None”.

Q

Secondary Parent/Guardian Last Name

The name borne in common by members of a family. This person is the legal parent or guardian of the student and will be able to redeem benefits if the primary parent/guardian is unavailable (for example, the primary parent/guardian is incarcerated or deceased). If there is no secondary parent/guardian on file, enter “None”.

R

Primary Parent/Guardian Telephone Number

Primary phone number of the legal parent or guardian of the student who is considered the Head of Household. If there is no phone number on file for the parent/guardian, enter “None”.

S

Primary Parent/Guardian Email Address

Primary email address of the legal parent or guardian of the student who is considered the Head of Household. If there is no email address on file for the parent/guardian, enter “None”.

T

Primary Student’s Mailing Address 1

This is the student’s primary mailing address information and typically contains the building number and street name. This field is needed for the purpose of mailing the S-EBT card to the student.

U

Primary Student’s Mailing Address 2

This includes any additional information about the student’s address and typically includes things like a rural route number, apartment number, unit number, etc.

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V Primary Student's Mailing City

The city for the student's mailing address. This field is needed for the purpose of mailing the S-EBT card to the student.

W Primary Student's Mailing State

The state abbreviation for the student's mailing address. This field is needed for the purpose of mailing the S-EBT card to the student.

X Primary Student's Mailing Postal Code

The postal code for the student's mailing address. This is typically a 5-digit number but can include a 4-digit extension as well. This field is needed for the purpose of mailing the S-EBT card to the student.

Y Free/Reduced Lunch Price Eligible

Student meets the federal eligibility criteria for free or reduced lunch price. Eligibility may be documented using one of the following methods:

- Direct Certification
  - Categorical Eligibility (can extend eligibility to other household members):
    - Medicaid (Free or Reduced)
    - SNAP - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
    - TANF - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
    - FDPIR - Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
  - Other Source Categorical Eligibility (LEA lists, student specific eligibility):
    - Migrant
    - Homeless
    - Runaway
    - Foster
    - Head Start documented participation
- Application for Free and Reduced-Price Meals
- Family Economic Data Survey form
- Combo Application (Application for Free and Reduced-Price Meals and Family Economic Data Survey Form)

LEAs should upload student enrollment data into the Colorado Nutrition Portal as much as possible to maximize the number of students that may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. For uploading instructions visit this webpage.

For specific guidelines in meeting the criteria for free/reduced lunch price, refer to the School Nutrition Unit-Free and Reduced-Price Processes web page, Rules for the Administration of the Public-School Finance Act, and the School Auditing Office's At-Risk/Free Lunch Count Audit Resource Guide. School Meal Eligibility Website

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During the Summer EBT Collection for students to be reported as free/reduced lunch price eligible, the student should be identified as qualifying at any point during the school year by one of the methods listed above.

Note: Eligibility must be reported as appropriate for each individual student. This is true even if a school participates in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) or Provision 2. LEAs and schools participating in Healthy School Meals For All will conduct certification and benefit issuance operations as usual, unless also implementing the Community Eligibility Provision.

Code	Description
00	Not Eligible (Paid Lunch)
01	Free Lunch Eligible
02	Reduced Lunch Eligible

Z

FRPL Eligibility Date

The LEA can choose to provide the date the student was found eligible for Free/Reduced Price Lunch. This information is helpful to assist with questions around dispute resolutions.

Document Changes:

Date	Description of Change	Reason for Change	Element(s) Affected
3/13/2025	Added language for Free/Reduced Price Lunch Eligible field.	Added to clarify data needed and align definitions with Student October Count. The definition differs slightly due to S-EBT legislation requiring students eligible for Free/Reduced-Price Lunch at any point during the current school year receive benefits, where Student October Count is only interested in students FRPL eligibility on the designated count date.	Free/Reduced Price Lunch Eligible
3/13/2025	Updated “district” to “LEA” throughout document.	Will better include BOCES and CSI in definitions.	
3/13/2025	Updated Language Background with information on American Sign Language coding	Added clarity and aligns definition with other collections.	Language Background
3/26/2025	Updated language for Free/Reduced Lunch Eligible field. Removed language around carry-over eligibility	This sentence was added by mistake, and conflicts with S-EBT policies.	Free/Reduced Price Lunch Eligible

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Date	Description of Change	Reason for Change	Element(s) Affected
2/23/2026	Added Primary Parent/Guardian Email Address and Secondary Parent/Guardian First and Last Name	Requested by Colorado Department of Human Services to improve benefit redemption process.	Secondary Parent/Guardian First Name, Secondary Parent/Guardian Last Name, Primary Parent/Guardian Email Address

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