



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Catherine Truitt, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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February 18, 2021

Dear parents and guardians,

The State of North Carolina will issue a third round of Pandemic – Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) in the next few weeks to support the needs of food-insecure children for whom meals at school have been limited during the pandemic. As you may recall from previous issuances of P-EBT, federal regulations require students to be enrolled in a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and be certified as eligible for free or reduced-price meals at school. Unfortunately, for this issuance of P-EBT benefits, federal regulations did not address schools that do not participate in the NSLP, which includes some charter schools, private schools, and students who are homeschooled.

We know this is disappointing news, but we want to take this opportunity to remind you that local food assistance is *still* available to your child through local school nutrition programs. As part of the State's emergency public health response, meals are available to children through curbside pick-up during the week. Some schools are also offering meal bundles of pre-packed, non-perishable foods within their counties and/or school districts. Please know that meals are available to all children, 18 and under, for the remainder of the school year. Additionally, it is *not* necessary for children to be enrolled in the school district to benefit from a meal at no cost.

Please contact the School Nutrition Director in the school district nearest you for more information about how to access these meals at no cost for children. You may locate the school nutrition director by contacting the school district's administrative office. You may also locate meals in community sites near you by texting "FOODNC" or "COMIDA" to 877-877.

If your household income and/or size has changed during the pandemic, please consider [Food and Nutrition Services](#) (FNS) provided through the NC Department of Health and Human Services. This link provides additional information that may be helpful if you think your family may qualify for food assistance. For more information, about sources for food assistance during the pandemic, please call the United Way's assistance line at 2-1-1 or the Department of Health and Human Services at 1-888-892-1162.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynn Harvey".

Lynn Harvey

LH/dm

SCHOOL NUTRITION AND DISTRICT OPERATIONS

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