



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NEWLY LAUNCHED PANDEMIC ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER, “P-EBT,” PROGRAM ALLOWS ELIGIBLE FAMILIES TO RECEIVE FUNDS FOR MISSED SCHOOL MEALS**

Program will provide financial assistance to families of children who would normally have received free or reduced-price school meals in Georgia from March-May

**ATLANTA, GA** (August 10, 2020) — The Georgia Division of Family & Children Services (DFCS) in partnership with the Georgia Department of Education (DOE) has launched an online application for the new Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program. This program will provide extra help to families of more than 1.1M Georgia children who would normally have received free or reduced price school meals from March to May, 2020. Families who are not currently receiving SNAP must submit their children’s 10-digit “Georgia Testing ID” to claim \$256.50 in total P-EBT benefits, per child.

The P-EBT program is now available to children that were eligible to receive free or reduced price school meals as of March 2020. Due to school closures caused by the pandemic, these households are now eligible to receive benefits on an EBT card to help them buy food for their children. The Georgia Division of Family & Children Services (DFCS) is utilizing data from Georgia DOE to verify a child’s eligibility for P-EBT and prior enrollment in the school meal program.

**Families should apply right away for the one-time allotment of \$256.50 in total P-EBT benefits per child. Applications will not be accepted after September 25th.** Georgia is required to pay all benefits by September 30th, 2020, so families are encouraged to claim their benefit as quickly as possible. P-EBT benefits on the card will roll over month-to-month and are valid for 365 days. Benefits not used within 365 days will be removed from the account and cannot be replaced.

Applications for the P-EBT program can be found online at <https://dfcs.georgia.gov/pandemic-electronic-benefit-transfer> The application is short and should



take only a few minutes to complete. If approved, an EBT card will be mailed to the family within three to four weeks. A Pandemic EBT Hotline is also available: 855-501-4636.

Families who are currently receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly Food Stamps) do not need to apply for P-EBT. Eligible SNAP recipients automatically received a P-EBT benefit on their existing Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card.

“The Atlanta Community Food Bank’s Benefits Outreach Program connects families and individuals who qualify to various state and federal nutrition assistance programs, such as SNAP and WIC, as well as other economic support programs,” said [Kyle Waide](#), President and CEO of Atlanta Community Food Bank. “We stand ready to assist families with the P-EBT application process if or when they need it.”

**For questions and more information about the P-EBT program you may contact Atlanta Community Food Bank’s Benefits Outreach team at [Benefits@acfb.org](mailto:Benefits@acfb.org) or call (678) 553-5917.**

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#### **About Atlanta Community Food Bank**

The Atlanta Community Food Bank works to end hunger with the food, people and big ideas needed to ensure our neighbors have the nourishment to lead healthy and productive lives. Far too many people in our own community experience hunger every day, including children, seniors and working families. Through more than 700 nonprofit partners, we help more than 710,000 people get healthy food every year. Our goal is that all hungry people across metro Atlanta and North Georgia will have access to the nutritious meals they need when they need them. It takes the power of our whole community to make that possible. Join us at [ACFB.org](http://ACFB.org).