

Good morning SFSAs,

This email is a follow up to my communication earlier this week. As a reminder, MDE was able to provide information to MDHS for all students categorized as Free or Reduced in the October MSIS upload. Now, MDHS needs information on students determined free after that date. We again strongly encourage you to provide information to MDHS for the administration of the P-EBT program. These are important benefits for students and their families.

We have spoken to some SFSAs who have completed or have been working on this data request. Based on this small sample, the number of students to be reported appears to be very small. **Please be sure to complete this data transfer to MDHS by Noon, Friday, September 18, 2020.**

Pricing Schools:

Please provide all students **determined F/R eligible** after October 1, including new enrollees.

CEP/Provision Schools:

Please provide information on students **enrolled** in your District after October 1 as they are considered categorically eligible for F meals.

We understand the many challenges you face at this time, such as serving meals in a COVID environment, transitioning between USDA programs during the school year, and, for some, weather related school closure. Thanks for all you do to support MS student and your communities. Child Nutrition directors and employees are some of the true unrecognized heroes for our children.

Thanks & stay safe,
Scott

Previous message:

To all SFAs participating in the NSLP:

The MS Department of Human Services (MDHS) administers the P-EBT plan for Mississippi. Earlier this year MDE shared SY 2019-2020 MSIS data with MDHS. This included F/R status for students in MSIS as of October. MDE does not have student data after that date. However, students who were eligible for F/R meals after that date are also eligible for P-EBT.

Recently MDHS has requested data from SFAs/school districts related to the P-EBT program. Specifically, MDHS is requesting information regarding students who became eligible after the MSIS "snapshot". It is allowable for SFAs to share information with MDHS, see below. This information is critical for the issuance of P-EBT benefits and you are encouraged to do so. Also, MDHS should provide you with a secure method to report this confidential data.

Section 1101(e) of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act:

(e) Release Of Information.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Agriculture may authorize State educational agencies and school food authorities administering a school lunch program under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act

(42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) to release to appropriate officials administering the supplemental nutrition assistance program such information as may be necessary to carry out this section.

You may receive communications from these contacts at MDHS:

Cameron Foster Cameron.Foster@mdhs.ms.gov

Breanne Anderson breanne.anderson@mdhs.ms.gov

Any parent questions should be directed to MDHS as the MDE and OCN do not administer the program: PEBT@mdhs.ms.gov

Thank you for your assistance in this important project,
Scott

Scott Clements, **State Director**
Office of Child Nutrition and Healthy Schools