



HENRY McMASTER, GOVERNOR
MICHAEL LEACH, STATE DIRECTOR

March 15, 2021

Dear Foster Caregiver,

The first installment of Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) benefits for the 2020-21 school year will be mailed out on or before April 16, 2021. P-EBT is an optional federal program designed to provide food benefits to children who have temporarily lost access to free and reduced-price meals at school due to school closures triggered by COVID-19. For the 2020-21 school year, eligible children will receive P-EBT benefits **based on the number of days they attend school virtually each month.**

Foster parents **do not** need to visit the P-EBT Address Verification Portal to verify their mailing address. P-EBT cards for each eligible foster child will be mailed to the placement address on file with DSS.

P-EBT benefits for the 2020-21 school year will be issued in four different installments between April 2021 and July 2021. All benefits will be issued on the same P-EBT card. Once the P-EBT card is issued, foster parents should hold on to the card and ensure that the card follows the child. If the foster child moves to a new placement or returns home, the card must go with the child.

Attached is a Frequently Asked Questions document containing information about P-EBT benefits. This document, along with other information about the program, is available on the DSS website, at www.dss.sc.gov. You can also reach out to us on the Foster Parent Helpline at 803-898-4174 or by emailing us at FPHelp@dss.sc.gov with additional questions. Thank you for your continued commitment to the children, youth and families of South Carolina.

Sincerely,

Dawn T. Barton

Dawn T. Barton, Director Permanency Management

Attachment