



# CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Nutrition Services

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**Dr. Morcease J. Beasley**  
*Superintendent of Schools and CEO*

**Audrey A. Hamilton**  
*Nutrition Services Director*

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### **CCPS Announces an Additional Resource to Benefit Clayton County Families**

The Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) Department of School Nutrition is pleased to share information about another resource to help families in Clayton County who are experiencing food insecurities.

The Georgia Division of Family & Children Services (DFCS) is partnering with the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) to provide food benefits to families with children who receive free and reduced lunch. The Family First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 allows the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to facilitate the distribution of Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer Program (P-EBT).

“I have heard about this benefit in other states and wondered why it was not available in Georgia,” said Audrey Hamilton, CCPS Director of Nutrition Services. “Finally, it is now being offered in Georgia to help families who have suffered during the Covid-19 pandemic. The majority of our families in Clayton County should be eligible because of the school district’s Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) status.”

“We are excited to offer our students and their families this additional resource of support that will hopefully make their daily lives easier as they cope with the pandemic,” said Dr. Morcease J. Beasley, CCPS Superintendent/CEO.

COVID-19 related school closures impacted students’ ability to receive school-based meals. Since that time, the Department of Education has assisted families by providing over 28.4 million free meals through the National School Meal Program for children 18 years and under. Meals were also delivered at bus stops across the state for children that could not get to the school locations to pick up the meals.

Starting in July, both DFCS and DOE, under the recently approved P-EBT plan, will issue funds to eligible families to offset additional food costs caused by the pandemic. **The temporary funding includes a one-time allotment of \$265.50 per eligible child and is intended to prevent food insecurity for families across Georgia.**

Planned for a July implementation date, P-EBT assistance will be issued to families who currently receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps) benefits and those not

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currently enrolled in the program. This supplement will aid more than 1.1M Georgia students who are eligible for free or reduced school lunch (based on enrollment data as of May 2020).

“We know food insecurity for students who rely on school meals during school closures is a major concern,” State School Superintendent Richard Woods said. “This partnership with DFCS is part of our efforts to ensure Georgia’s children are fed, safe, and healthy during the pandemic.”

Families who currently receive SNAP need not apply for P-EBT benefits. Eligible SNAP recipients will automatically receive additional P-EBT benefits loaded onto their existing EBT cards by mid-July if their child was enrolled in the free and reduced meals program during the 2019-2020 school year.

Constituents who do not currently receive SNAP but have children who are eligible to receive free or reduced meals as of June 2020 can apply for P-EBT benefits using an upcoming online portal. The application portal is currently being developed with an anticipated launch date of July 2020.

Once the application is available online, eligible families can use the student’s Georgia Testing ID (GTID) number of each eligible child in their household to complete the application process. Parents who do not have their child’s GTID may check their child’s report card, other school related materials or contact their local school district for this information.

Approved applicants will receive an EBT card within three (3) to four (4) weeks of approval. Families will receive information explaining card usage and activation procedures.

The allotment amounts issued to families are based on the number of children in the household who are eligible for free or reduced lunch. The benefit amount was determined by a federal equation that factored in the number of pandemic-related school closure days in Georgia for the months of March, April and May 2020.

Families can use their pre-loaded EBT cards at approved EBT grocery retailers and outlets to purchase food items. P-EBT benefits are entirely federally funded at no cost to families participating in the program.

Georgia Family Connection Partnership, a statewide network dedicated to the health and wellbeing of families, is committed to supporting this effort. They will work closely with DFCS and GaDOE to make this resource available in communities across Georgia by communicating with local partners in all 159 Georgia counties.

For more information and updates about P-EBT in Georgia, visit: <https://dfcs.georgia.gov>.

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