



FACT SHEET

Spring 2026

Dear Community and Education Partners,

This summer, Maryland SUN Bucks is back! The Maryland SUN Bucks program helps families stretch their grocery budget during the summer months, when many children lose access to free or reduced-price meals at school.

Together, we served more than 630,000 students last summer. We helped families put meals on their tables with \$120 in benefits for each eligible child—\$40 per month for June, July, and August—while school was out. We need your help to keep making this investment in children and their families successful!

2026 Updates to Know and Share

Eligibility requirements and the enrollment process have not changed from 2025.

However, we do have new information to share:

- **EBT Vendor Update:** Effective May 17, the EBT vendor for the state of Maryland will change. If your card has been lost or destroyed, a new card can be ordered at [ebtedge.com](https://www.ebtedge.com), on the ebtEDGE mobile app, or by contacting the EBT Customer Service Center at 1-800-997-2222.
- **Moved?** DHS does not automatically receive address updates from schools. Call 1-800-332-6347 and select SUN Bucks, or go online to update your address immediately.
- **Who is getting a card in the mail?** Only children new to the program whose households do **not** have SNAP or TANF will get a new white SUN Bucks card in the mail. All other families will use the card they already have. If you need a replacement, please call DHS to update your address and request a new card.

- **Custody Changed?** Update the Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) immediately to prevent benefits from going to the wrong parent. Call 1-800-332-6347 and select SUN Bucks.
- **Foster Parents/Guardians:** Keep your old card if your child received SUN Bucks last year. If you are new to the program, you will receive a white SUN Bucks card directly from your caseworker. Contact your caseworker for replacements.

Eligibility

A school-aged child is eligible for Maryland SUN Bucks benefits if they:

- Are enrolled in a Maryland school that participates in free or reduced-price School Meals (FARMS);
- Are age 5-18 and live in a household that participates in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA), or Medical Assistance/Medicaid (MA);
- Applied for and were enrolled in FARMS or the School Breakfast Program (SBP) during the school year;
- Are in foster care, experiencing homelessness, runaway, child of a migrant worker, or do not meet the above criteria but apply and are determined eligible for FARMS by August 31 of the application year.

Enrollment

Many families will get Maryland SUN Bucks benefits automatically, but others will need to apply. If a household already participates in SNAP, TCA, or Medicaid and/or has applied for and received Free and Reduced School Meals (FARMS) during the 2025-2026 school year, they will be automatically enrolled in the program. Children who are in foster care, experiencing homelessness, a migrant, or a runaway will be automatically enrolled. These households do not need to fill out an application. (Please note that homeless, migrant or runaway status is usually self-reported to schools, if a child has that status but the school is unaware, this may impact the need to apply).

A child who is enrolled in a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school that automatically receives FARMS, is not actively receiving SNAP, TCA, or Medicaid, and is not in foster care will not be automatically enrolled. The

child's parent/guardian will have to apply and be determined eligible to enroll in the Maryland SUN Bucks program.

How Maryland SUN Bucks Works

Maryland SUN Bucks benefits will be issued on existing SNAP EBT cards for families who have received SNAP or TCA benefits at any time since July 1, 2025. For children who do not receive SNAP or TCA benefits on an existing card, the benefits will be issued on a white Maryland SUN Bucks card in the child's name, pictured below.



Benefits can be used at authorized SNAP retailers such as grocery stores and farmers markets, to purchase healthy foods like fruits and vegetables, meats and other protein sources, whole grains, dairy, and other food products.

How Might You Help?

Your partnership is vital to making Maryland SUN Bucks successful this summer. Here are six things you can do to help:

1. Spread the word! Help educate local officials, community partners, and school system contacts about the program. Share our website: dhs.maryland.gov/sunbucks.
2. Ask parents/guardians throughout the year to verify that their address in the school database is accurate. The lowest redemption rates are for children who have been directly approved through the National School Lunch Program.
3. Help educate parents/guardians about the program. For example, tell the parents/guardians that they do not have to apply if their child was eligible for school meals under FARMS, is in foster care, or their household is enrolled in SNAP, TCA, or Medicaid.

4. Inform households with children in CEP schools that they will have to apply for Maryland SUN Bucks if their household is not enrolled in SNAP, TCA, Medicaid, and their child is not in foster care.
5. Inform parents/guardians who may need to apply for Maryland SUN Bucks that they can get more information at dhs.maryland.gov/sunbucks and/or apply online at benefits.maryland.gov.
6. Encourage parents or guardians to take the eligibility quiz offered by the SUN Bucks chatbot on dhs.maryland.gov/sunbucks.
7. Reach out to the SUN Bucks team at DHS.SUNBucks@maryland.gov if you are interested in scheduling an information session for your staff, need promotion materials, or would like an invited speaker from one of our local offices at your school or community event.

Visit the Maryland SUN Bucks webpage at dhs.maryland.gov/sunbucks to learn more. Together, we can make summer brighter for Maryland's children and their families!