STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

Alabama
State Board
of Education

Governor Kay Ivey
President

Jackie Zeigler
District I

Tracie West
District II

Stephanie Bell
District III

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV
Vice President

Tonya S. Chestnut, Ed.D.
District V

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.
District VI

Belinda McRae
District VII

Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.
District VIII
President Pro Tem

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
Secretary and
Executive Officer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 22, 2022

CONTACT: Communications
334-694-4686
comm@alsde.edu

Summer P-EBT Benefits Coming to Families with Eligible School Children

MONTGOMERY, Ala. – The Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR) has received federal approval to distribute Summer Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) benefits to an estimated 485,000 children who participate in the National School Lunch Program.

The benefits will help feed children enrolled in the program, which provides free and reduced-price meals at school. Eligible families will receive $391 for each child in the program. The benefits are expected to start rolling out later this summer.

"Hunger doesn't take a summer break," said Alabama DHR Commissioner Nancy Buckner. "These Summer P-EBT benefits will provide financial flexibility and promote continued food security for students as they transition between school years. We are grateful to our federal and state partners for their ongoing support of our efforts to meet the nutritional needs of young Alabamians."

Although all public school children could access free meals during the 2021-22 school year, Summer P-EBT benefits are limited to those who participate in the National School Lunch Program by application or through either the Community Eligibility Provision or a Provision 2 school. Families with questions about eligibility should contact the schools their children attend.

Summer P-EBT benefits can be used to purchase SNAP-eligible food items at stores that accept Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards. Households with eligible students who received P-EBT benefits previously will access Summer P-EBT benefits on their existing EBT cards. Those who are new to the National School Lunch Program will receive EBT cards in the mail. All recipients should keep their EBT cards in case additional benefits are added in the future.

To become eligible for Summer P-EBT, families may apply for the National School Lunch Program by contacting their local schools no later than Aug. 31.

Eligible families are encouraged to monitor dhr.alabama.gov for additional updates, including information about a timeframe for the arrival of benefits. DHR oversees the distribution of Summer P-EBT with assistance from ALSDE. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service administers the program at the federal level.

Support specialists available to answer questions about P-EBT at 1-800-410-5827 and online at dhr.alabama.gov/food-assistance/ from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

###