

SUN BUCKS



Summer EBT SUN Bucks is for qualifying school-age children such as those who receive free or reduced meals, providing \$120 for each eligible child during the summer months for groceries when children do not have access to school meals.

While students at CEP schools receive meals at no cost during the school year, the SUN Bucks Program requires all individual income determination for each student. If your child(ren) have not been determined as directly certified via SNAP, TANF, FDPIR, Homeless, Runaway, Migrant, Foster Care, or Medicaid, please fill out an application at <https://dca.opi.mt.gov/FRAPP?sponsorNum=0487> to apply for SUN Bucks benefits.

FAQS

Do all children in CEP schools automatically qualify for SUN Bucks?

No - children in CEP schools must be income eligible and their caregiver must submit a complete SUN Bucks application to qualify for SUN Bucks, unless they are ages 7-15 and determined eligible through participation in programs such as SNAP or TANF during the eligibility period.

Which children qualify automatically?

Children who are directly certified for free and reduced-price school meals due to participating eligible programs such as SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR; or are directly certified for free and reduced price meals from having foster, migrant, or homeless/runaway status.

What is direct certification?

Direct certification is a process conducted by states and schools to certify eligible children for free meals without the need for household applications.

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How can children qualify for SUN Bucks who are not directly certified for free and reduced meals?

Children who are not already directly certified for free and reduced-price meals may apply using a free or reduced-price meal application to be eligible for both free or reduced-price meals and SUN Bucks if approved. In order to issue SUN Bucks benefits to households through this method, schools must report free and reduced-price meal application information to DPHHS. Households may apply using a SUN Bucks application if they wish to only participate in SUN Bucks. Families must meet the federal income eligibility guidelines to qualify based on household size and income.

My child receives free meals at school based on a submitted application. Do I need to apply to receive SUN Bucks benefits?

No, the application for school meals eligibility will be used to distribute SUN Bucks benefits if this information is provided to the state agency for benefit issuance.

For more information on Montana SUN Bucks go to <https://dphhs.mt.gov/HCSO/SUNBucks>

HPS families can direct their questions and inquiries to sjensen@helenaschools.org