

What You Need to Know About Data & Access to SUN Bucks Benefits Webinar

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



The following are the answers to the questions asked in HNS' [What You Need to Know About Data & Access to SUN Bucks Benefits webinar](#). Please note that operators are responsible for remaining up-to-date on program guidance/regulations. The answers provided reflect the information available at the time of the live webinar and may be subject to change.

How is extended Direct Certification (DC) conducted? Which students should be checked for extended Direct Certification?

A student with a match in SNAP, TANF, FDPIR, and/or Direct Certification-Medicaid (DCM) will qualify him/herself and will also qualify all enrolled household members for free or reduced-price meal benefits. This is referred to as extending eligibility. Student addresses can be used to identify those that are in the same household as a direct certification match. Please note, a match in Foster, Migrant Education Program (MEP), or Homeless does not extend free meal benefits or SUN Bucks benefits to other household members. When a student is certified eligible via an NSLP household application, the eligibility applies to all children in the household listed on the application. SFAs must ensure correct eligibility is designated in the CNP Summer EBT - SUN Bucks Data Portal for students who are eligible via an extended benefit. Extended benefits will not pre-populate and must be added manually.

- **Example:** Joe is found as a match in the CNP Direct Certification system for Medicaid-Free. Johnny is Joe's stepbrother who lives in his household but shows as "No Match." In this example, the SFA should indicate Medicaid eligibility for Johnny in the CNP Summer EBT - SUN Bucks Data Portal. **This applies to both regular operating schools and those operating Special Provision Options (SPO) in a non-base year.**

Are online students eligible for SUN Bucks benefits if they have siblings who are a DC match or Medicaid match? These students come to school two or three times a year for annual testing.

Online students are *possibly* eligible for SUN Bucks, but their eligibility is NOT determined by the SFA; online students are not entered into the CNP Summer EBT – SUN Bucks Data Portal. Please see the [SUN Bucks Benefits Eligibility resource](#) that describes how students not enrolled in an NSLP school may be eligible.

SFAs are only responsible for confirming enrollment and eligibility data in the CNP Summer EBT – SUN Bucks Data Portal for those students who are enrolled in sites participating in NSLP/SBP.

If a student attended school for one day (started school on 8/7 and withdrew on 8/8), does this student qualify for the SUN Bucks?

It depends. You should ensure the CNP Summer EBT – SUN Bucks Data Portal has accurate enrollment information. If the student enrolls in another school during the year, the enrollment information must be reflected in the portal (beginning and end of enrollment period). If the household enrolls their child(ren) in a school in another state, it is the parent's responsibility to ensure benefits are received from only one state, the one in which the child was enrolled last during School Year 2025-2026.

When do SFAs need to complete reviewing the student information in the portal?

Eligibility for the SUN Bucks benefit for some students is contingent upon the SFA updating or correcting student data in the CNP Summer EBT – SUN Bucks Data Portal. Therefore, SFAs must review and update student eligibility and enrollment information as soon as possible.

When will families begin receiving SUN Bucks benefits?

SUN Bucks benefits will be issued by the Arizona Department of Economic Services (ADES). Once ADE receives information from ADES on benefit issuance dates, ADE will communicate this with the field.

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Do students who move out of state still qualify to receive SUN Bucks benefits?

Households should apply for benefits in the state where the child(ren) attended an NSLP site during School Year 2025-2026. If the student enrolls in a school in another state, it is the parent's responsibility to ensure the benefit is received from only one state.

What if the student's address is incorrect in the match system?

Student addresses are not provided in the Direct Certification match downloads. AzEDS student addresses that are incorrect in the Student Information System (SIS) must be updated by the SIS Coordinator and resubmitted to AzEDS. Once updated in the SIS, the corrected address will upload from AzEDS in the CNP Summer EBT – SUN Bucks Data Portal. If a non-AzEDS student address is incorrectly entered in the CNP Summer EBT – SUN Bucks Data Portal, this will need to be edited for the student to receive benefits.

If a student has passed away and the Custodial parent information has been removed from the Student Information System (SIS), will that student receive SUN Bucks benefits?

SUN Bucks adds an additional supplement to the summer meals programs by providing grocery-buying benefits to low-income families with school-aged children when schools are closed for the summer. Please email SUNBucks@azed.gov and request to speak with Health and Nutrition Services (HNS) staff regarding the child.

Are Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) DC students extended to the household members? How are those extended students edited in the SUN Bucks portal?

Yes, students attending a CEP school, that are a SNAP, TANF, FDPIR, or Medicaid "Match" in DC, can extend benefits to other students from the same household. This will need to be manually tracked and updated in the CNP Summer EBT – SUN Bucks Data Portal by the SFA.

When can Food Service make the "[No Meal Application, No Problem](#)" resource available to parents of students who were not directly certified or who were not certified as free or reduced-price?

Now! HNS requires NSLP schools with children not automatically eligible for benefits be notified about 2026 SUN Bucks as soon as possible and before School Year 2025-2026 ends.

How do early pre-school students that are not reported through the AzEDS student data receive SUN Bucks benefits?

All non-AzEDS students that attend NSLP/SBP participating schools will need to have their enrollment and eligibility manually entered into the CNP Summer EBT – SUN Bucks Data Portal. Please review the [How to Report Students for Summer-EBT in the CNP Summer EBT - SUN Bucks Data Portal](#) for instruction on reporting non-AzEDS students in the data portal.

I am receiving an error when uploading the excel through the CNP Summer EBT – SUN Bucks Data Portal that my CTDS number is wrong, even when I confirm it is correct. What can I do?

Please make sure to use the **site CTDS** for the NSLP/SBP site the student is enrolled and attending NSLP meal service. The site CTDS will be **9 digits** and only 9 digits (**no spaces or dashes**). The site CTDS number can be found at the top of the CNPWeb NSLP site application. If this still does not work, please email SUNBucks@azed.gov and request technical assistance.