

# SUN Bucks

## Program Description

SUN Bucks, also known as Summer EBT, is a program that helps families buy groceries when children lose access to free and reduced-price school meals over the summer months. Launched in 2024, SUN Bucks provides consistent access to nutritious affordable foods as families face higher grocery costs, helping alleviate childhood hunger during the summer months. The Department of Social and Health Services works in partnership with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and local school districts to automatically enroll most eligible children in the program. Families who do not qualify automatically can apply via a paper application or through an online application portal.

## Enrollment

Children might be automatically enrolled if, during the school year, they were:

- Approved for free or reduced-price meals at school.
- Enrolled at a Community Eligibility Provision<sup>1</sup> school and submitted a Family Income Survey or Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application to their school and met Income Eligibility Guidelines.
- In observance of compulsory school attendance for ages 8-18 in Washington state, and were a member of a household that receives benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

Families who were not automatically enrolled in SUN Bucks can apply online if their children were enrolled in a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program and their household income meets income eligibility guidelines.

<sup>1</sup>Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Schools

<sup>2</sup>Briefing Book/Basic Food/Page 30.



## Highlights

- Over 690,000 children were eligible for SUN Bucks in SFY 2024<sup>2</sup>.
- Together with SUN Meals and SUN Meals to Go, SUN Bucks is one of three complementary USDA programs that offer convenient, flexible ways for kids to access nutritious food during the summer.
- SUN Bucks encourages healthy eating and helps families stretch their grocery budget by participating in [Market Match](#) and [Produce Match](#) incentive programs.

## Access to Healthy Food

Once a family has been verified as eligible, a SUN Bucks EBT card is mailed to each individual child. Each card has \$120 available to make food purchases with authorized EBT retailers. Families are encouraged to spend their SUN Bucks before any remaining benefits are removed from their card 122 days after it was issued.

### More information:

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