

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.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DATA & ACCESS TO SUN BUCKS BENEFITS QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

If a school is operating CEP, would every family need to fill out a SUN Bucks application?

Not necessarily. Students who are Directly Certified or documented as a foster, homeless, or migrant or enrolled in a Head Start Program with access to the NSLP/SBP would NOT need to apply for SUN Bucks if your school participates in CEP.

Will only students who are directly certified get automatic eligibility for SUN Bucks at a CEP site?

In addition to Direct Certification matched students, any student the school has documented as a foster, homeless, or migrant or enrolled in a Head Start Program with access to the NSLP/SBP should also be reported to ADE as eligible. ADE will automatically populate many of these data into the CNP Summer EBT SUN Bucks portal for SFAs.

Are the parents responsible for applying with a SUN Bucks application if their student is not directly certified (at a CEP operating school)?

Yes.

Will CEP students be included in the Sun Bucks portal from AzEDS? If the SIS coordinator coded them Income Eligibility 1 and 2 from the ESEA Alternative Form for Income-based Eligibility, do these students need to be removed from the Sun Bucks portal?

Students who were enrolled for at least one instructional school day and who are reported to ADE via AzEDS as enrolled will automatically display as enrolled in the CNP Summer EBT SUN Bucks application portal. Unless the student matched in direct certification or was documented as a foster, homeless, or migrant or enrolled in a Head Start Program with access to the NSLP/SBP, they will not receive the automatic eligibility for SUN Bucks. Students without the automatic eligibility for SUN Bucks will need to fill out a SUN Bucks application. ESEA Alternative Forms data cannot be used to determine SUN Bucks eligibility. Enrollment should not be removed from the portal.

Do districts that are entirely CEP still need to collect "Income Eligibility" information from the Alternative Form for Income-based Eligibility and report to ADE?

Yes. Please contact Title 1 for technical assistance. Income Indicators 1 and 2 data are still used for other programs, but not for SUN Bucks. Students that **do not** meet the following criteria: 1. match in Direct Certification, 2. documented as a household receiving FDPIR, foster, homeless, or migrant or 3. enrolled in a Head Start Program with access to the NSLP/SBP must be notified of the ability to apply via HNS's SUN Bucks household application.

Where would SFAs report the student eligibility information collected from the ESEA Alternative Form for Income-based Eligibility?

This is still reported in AzEDS in the ESEA Title 1 (Indicator 1 or Indicator 2 if applicable) reporting section, as this data is needed for other programs. Please contact Title 1 for additional information on the reporting requirement.

Are SFAs able to use the ESEA Alternative Form for Income-based Eligibility to report student eligibility in powerschool for Title 1 and also under compliance for SUN Bucks reporting?

The answer is no. When operating CEP, only those directly certified students or those documented as foster, homeless, or migrant and children enrolled in a Head Start Program with access to the NSLP/SBP will be automatically matched for SUN Bucks. The rest will need to submit a SUN Bucks application.

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Do students need to participate in a meal service at least one day to be eligible?

The population of children we are referring to as 'enrolled' includes those children with access to NSLP / SBP meal service and who are enrolled in at least 1 instructional day during the 2024-2025 school year. A child enrolled for at least one instructional school day at an NSLP or SBP participating site during School Year 2024-2025 and meeting one of the following eligibility criteria for at least one day beginning on July 1, 2024, through the last day of the covered summer operational period (August 5, 2025) is eligible for 2025 SUN Bucks. For more information about eligibility, please refer to HNS 02-2025 and the Summer-EBT Eligibility Flowchart (both linked below).

- [Memorandum](#)
- [Flowchart](#)

Is the student enrollment date considered the day they enrolled in the school or when they enrolled in free/reduced meal benefits?

The enrollment date is considered the timeframes the student enrolled in the school. Enrollment must be for at least one instructional school day at NSLP/SBP operating schools during School Year 2024-2025. Additionally, students certified as free or reduced-price eligible must be reported to ADE via AzEDs in the School Food Service Program Association or reported to ADE via the CNP Summer EBT SUN Bucks application portal.

What date should be provided as the enrollment date? The date they enrolled in school or the date they enrolled in meal benefits? Example: Student starts school in August but did not become eligible for free benefits until November. Which enrollment date is required?

Use the first enrollment date the student enrolled in school (e.g., August in this specific example).

Will students who have received SUN Bucks benefits in the past receive new cards, or will their existing card be loaded with this year's funds?

If the child received a card last year, the funds will be loaded onto the old card in most situations. If the child is on SNAP or TANF, DES will load onto the current SNAP card. Please refer to www.azed.gov/SUNBucks for additional information on receiving benefits.

Will the Sun Bucks Application also request a custodial parent's phone number and email?

The SUN Bucks application will request custodial parent/guardian information and relevant contact information.

Do CACFP students qualify for SUN Bucks?

Not likely. Please refer to the eligibility [flowchart](#). If the child is not participating in an NSLP school, they must be between the ages of 6 and 16 and meet additional criteria as outlined in the flowchart.

How do schools differentiate students who are not Direct Certification matches, but may be eligible for SUN Bucks? Can the school promote SUN Bucks applications district wide for all parents to apply?

ADE recommends that SFAs promote the SUN Bucks household application to those families who are not already eligible. This way families who are already eligible do not need to apply. If you have specific questions, ADE recommends contacting your assigned HNS Specialist or emailing SUNBucks@azed.gov.

Are SFAs required to report income data from the ESEA Alternative Form for Income-based Eligibility into the Indicator 1 and 2 portion of powerschool?

The Indicator 1 and 2 data must be reported as it is still used for other programs. This data is NOT reported to determine eligibility for SUN Bucks. If you still have questions, please contact your HNS Specialist for direct support.

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Will ADE determine the eligibility for families that apply for Sun Bucks applications?

Yes, 2025 SUN Bucks household applications will be processed by ADE.

Should preschool students in an all-CEP district who are not reported to AzEDS be referred to the SUN Bucks application?

Those preschool students with access to NSLP/SBP meals would first need to be added to the SUN Bucks portal following the guide [How to Report Students for Summer-EBT in the CNP Summer EBT - SUN Bucks portal](#). Those preschool students who are certified as free or reduced-price eligible from being matched in direct certification or documented as a foster, homeless, or migrant or enrolled in a Head Start Program with access to the NSLP/SBP would need their eligibility reported in the portal as well in order to be determined eligible for SUN Bucks. Any NSLP/SBP students who did not meet those criteria must be referred to the SUN Bucks application.

Since ADE processes the SUN Bucks application, do the schools need to update free or reduced-price eligibility for students who applied on the SUN Bucks application?

ADE will process the SUN Bucks household applications and update student eligibility for SUN Bucks accordingly. In terms of the SUN Bucks application for SFAs, SFAs only need to distribute the SUN Bucks household application link to those families who are not automatically certified as eligible for SUN Bucks.

The ages mentioned 6-16. Does that mean our high school students that are 17 or 18 do not qualify for SUN Bucks even if they are directly certified?

No, the age restriction is for children that **do not** attend NSLP schools.