



NORTON CITY SCHOOLS

Food Service Department
1 Panther Way · Norton, Ohio 44203
Phone 330-706-2711

Kailin Hose, Food Service Director / khose@nortonpanthers.org

Dear Parents and Guardians,

If you received a direct certification letter anytime during this school year (2024-2025), you are also eligible for Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (Summer EBT), also known as SUN Bucks, which helps households buy food during the summer when school is out. If you are directly certified, your child(ren) will automatically be enrolled in the program. You do not need to apply.

If you did **not** receive a direct certification letter, you still may be eligible for benefits if your household income is less than 185% of the federal poverty. If you think your children are eligible, you can apply for Summer EBT using the application at sebt.ohio.gov. Be sure to apply by August 15 to get benefits this summer. If you have questions about the application, contact the Summer EBT Helpline at **1-866-244-0071, option 1**.

You will receive \$120 for each eligible child in the household either on your Ohio Directions card if you have one, on last years Summer EBT card or a newly distributed benefit card in the mail. You can use the money to buy food during the summer at grocery stores, farmers markets, and other approved retailers. If you receive more than \$120 per eligible child in your household, do not use the benefits. Contact the Summer EBT Helpline at **1-866-244-0071, option 1** as soon as possible to confirm or correct the error.

Summer EBT benefits will begin being sent by the beginning of June through the summer. Benefits will be available to use for 122 days after you receive the benefit on your Ohio Direction Card or receive the benefit card in the mail. Receiving Summer EBT will not affect children's or families' immigration status.

If your address has changed this year be sure to update it with your school district or benefit issuance agency (SNAP, Medicaid, OWF) to ensure your benefit card is sent to the right address. If you do not wish to take part in Summer EBT, do not use the card. The benefits will expire after 122 days.

In addition to Summer EBT, children under 18 years of age in your household can also receive free meals during the summer at a summer meal site. You can call 1-866-3-HUNGRY or 1-877-8-HAMBRE (or text 914-342-7744 with the keyword "summer meals") to find the location closest to you.

If you have questions, you can contact the Summer EBT helpline at 1-866-244-0071, option 1.

Sincerely,

Kailin Hose

Food Service Supervisor

[Non-Discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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