

# SUN Bucks

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services  
Economic Services Administration • Community Services Division

## Program Description

SUN Bucks, also known as Summer EBT, is a new, permanent program that helps families buy groceries when children lose access to free and reduced-price school meals over the summer months. Beginning 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 enroll most eligible children in the program automatically. Families who do not qualify automatically can apply through an online application portal.

## Enrollment

Children may 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, Food Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or State Family Assistance.

Families who were not automatically enrolled in SUN Bucks may 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.

## Access to Healthy Food

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

## Highlights

- Over 560,000 children received SUN Bucks in summer 2024.
- 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.

<sup>1</sup>[Community Eligibility Provision \(CEP\) Schools](#)

### More information:

Alexis Marx, Chief, Office of Programs and Policy  
Phone: 360.819.0675  
Email: [Alexis.Marx@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:Alexis.Marx@dshs.wa.gov)