



Fact Sheet for School Staff

Arizona's SUN Bucks program is back!



The SUN Bucks program provides grocery benefits to families with school-aged children in our community. Last year alone, SUN Bucks helped 715,000 kids in Arizona get the healthy food that they usually enjoy while they're in school!

But a lot of families still don't know that they're eligible for this support, which is why we're calling on trusted community members (like you!) to help get the word out about SUN Bucks. This partnership is crucial to making sure no child goes hungry over the summer break. It can feel a little confusing to help families understand their eligibility or how to apply, which is why we're here to help!

How do SUN Bucks work?

- SUN Bucks is for school-aged children in households that are at or under 185% of federal poverty guidelines.
- Families receive \$120 per eligible school-aged child for groceries, and the benefit will be delivered on an existing SNAP or TANF card, last year's Arizona EBT card, or a new SUN Bucks card for families new to the program. Eligible children in the same household will have their benefits loaded onto the same card, whenever possible.
- Most eligible families will be automatically enrolled, but some will need to apply. We want to work together to help these families understand, sign up, and access their SUN Bucks benefits.
- Families can check here if they need to apply, or if they should receive SUN Bucks automatically: azed.gov/SUNBucksEligibilityScreener
- This is one of several programs that help families in our community. SUN Bucks works alongside Free Summer Meals to help make sure Arizonan kids are getting nutritious food all year round.
- *Special note for Special Provision Schools* More of your families will need to apply for SUN Bucks this year because Alternative Income Forms can't be used to automatically enroll children in the program this year. Families who aren't receiving SNAP, TANF or AHCCCS may need to apply (details below!).

You can help spread the word!

Your support and guidance to families about SUN Bucks will help your students receive the food they need this summer. We'll provide sample email or social media messages that you can use to help keep your community informed!





Remember

Most eligible families will already be automatically enrolled for Summer EBT benefits, but some will need to apply. You don't have to have all the answers, but here's additional information so you have the tools you need to support your school. You've got this!

Understanding eligibility

Are my students eligible for SUN Bucks?

SUN Bucks is for school-aged children in households at or under 185% of federal poverty guidelines.

Do my students need to sign up for SUN Bucks, or do they get it automatically?

Special Provision Schools

Some of your eligible families *won't* be automatically enrolled, so they may need to sign up.

Your families **need to apply** for SUN Bucks if they are NOT:

- ☐ Receiving SNAP, TANF, OR income-based AHCCCS (Medicaid)
- ☐ In foster care, certified for Migrant Education Program or Homeless Education Program at school, or in Head Start

▶ Last year, many of our students were automatically enrolled through their Alternative Income Form. That has changed in 2025, and these students need to apply!

Non-Provision Schools

Most of your eligible families will be automatically enrolled, so they don't need to apply.

They will receive SUN Bucks automatically if they:

- ☒ Receive SNAP, TANF, or income-based AHCCCS (Medicaid)
- ☒ Are in foster care, certified for Migrant Education Program or Homeless Education Program at school, or in Head Start
- ☒ Submitted a Free or Reduced Price Meal Application and were certified.

What should families do?

Check to see if they're eligible and need to apply. It only takes 5 minutes!

azed.gov/SUNBucksEligibilityScreener



Things to keep in mind over the summer

- Families should find their existing card. If they received SUN Bucks support last year, their benefits are automatically loaded onto their existing card. If they need to order a replacement card, they can call Arizona's SUN Bucks hotline at 1-833-648-4406.
- Benefits are issued as a one-time payment, and they will arrive throughout May if the family is automatically enrolled.
- Families who are enrolled in the program will receive a letter in the mail before benefits are issued. If they don't receive a notice, they may need to apply. These families can still apply until August 5th.

Using Summer EBT benefits

- Families can activate new SUN Bucks cards by calling 1-888-997-9333 to set up the PIN. They will need the 16-digit card number they received, the date of birth of the person named on the card, and the 8-digit case number on the Notice from DES.
- Families should hold onto their new SUN Bucks cards or Arizona EBT cards for next year!

More help

Families can learn more about SUN Bucks in Arizona at azed.gov/SUNBucks.

If families have questions about their SUN Bucks case they should call Arizona's SUN Bucks hotline at 1-833-648-4406.

If families have questions about activating their card, changing their PIN, they should call the EBT card customer service line at 1-888-997-9333.

