Get help buying food while schools are closed

Because schools are closed due to COVID-19, children who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals can get up to $365 in food benefits in addition to their pick up meals from school. These food benefits are called Pandemic EBT or P-EBT.

P-EBT benefits coming soon in May 2020

Where can families apply?
Families should look out for a message from their school district or local community based organization about how to apply in mid to late May.

Use it like a debit card.
Families will get up to $365 per eligible child on their P-EBT card to use on food and groceries. If you already have this card, you do not need to apply online.

How will families get their P-EBT benefits?
Most families with children who applied for CalFresh or Medi-Cal benefits do not need to apply. They will get their P-EBT card in the mail during the month of May. P-EBT cards will begin arriving around May 12, 2020 through May 22, 2020.

Families with children who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals and who do not get their P-EBT card in the mail by May 22, 2020 must apply online before June 30, 2020.

*Students can still pick up to-go meals if they have P-EBT benefits.

P-EBT is a program by CDSS and CDE, funded by the USDA, an equal opportunity employer.