



Dear Principal and/or Staff:

The SUN Bucks program is a brand-new federal food assistance program launching in North Carolina in 2024! Included with this letter are a set of applications for SUN Bucks (also referred to as Summer EBT) in both English and Spanish. An online SUN Bucks application will also be available for families to complete and submit to NC DHHS. The enclosed paper applications are for children enrolled in your school who may need a paper application instead of the online application.

What is SUN Bucks?

SUN Bucks is a program intended to provide grocery-buying benefits to children who lose access to Free- or Reduced-Price (FRP) school meals when school is out during the summer months. It's a one-time \$120 benefit per eligible child provided on a debit-like card that can be used on groceries anywhere that accepts SNAP/EBT benefits.

Who is eligible? Who needs an application?

Most children who qualify will be found automatically eligible, and do not need to apply. This application is intended for children enrolled in a National School Lunch Program (NSLP) school that aren't already categorically eligible, or don't participate in a program that would automatically qualify them.

Students DON'T need to apply if they are enrolled in a NSLP school and get FRP meals because they:

- Have an approved FRP meals application on file with their school, OR
- Are Directly Certified for FRP meals because they have Food and Nutrition Services (FNS/food stamps), or WorkFirst (TANF/cash assistance), or Medicaid (with income up to 185% of the federal poverty line), OR
- Are Categorically Eligible for FRP meals because they receive FRP meals because they are in foster care, Head Start, or are migrant, runaway, or experiencing homelessness.

The application is based on income, so a child attending a NSLP school not in one of those groups can apply to have their income eligibility determined.

My school is a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school. Do my students need to apply?

Maybe! If they are Directly Certified or Categorically Eligible (bullets 2 and 3 above), they don't need one. The main difference between regular NSLP and CEP eligibility is that because all children at CEP schools technically qualify for free meals, simply getting free meals won't automatically qualify a CEP student for SUN Bucks. If a CEP student receives FRP meals but is NOT Directly Certified or Categorically Eligible, they can apply.

Is there an online application?

Yes! It can be accessed at [NCDHHS.servicenowservices.com/gsp](https://ncdhhs.servicenowservices.com/gsp). Applicants who apply online may have a better user experience, can be better helped by the SUN Bucks call center, and will likely know if their application is approved or denied much sooner than paper applicants. The SUN Bucks call center can also assist callers in completing an application online for the applicant over the phone.

If I need more copies, what can I do?

Please feel free to photocopy this application. A PDF version is available on the SUN Bucks website at [NCDHHS.gov/SUNBucks](https://ncdhhs.gov/SUNBucks) in the SUN Bucks resources toolkit and the PDF will also be emailed to school Principals.

How do families return this application?

Please note that schools are NOT required or expected to fill out, mail, or process these applications. Families are asked to email a scanned PDF or legible/clear photograph of their completed application to DCFWSUNBucks@dhhs.nc.gov, or mail their physical application to **2416 Mail Service Center, Attn: SUN Bucks, Raleigh, NC 27699-2416**.

Where can I learn more?

For updates and answers to more FAQs, please visit [NCDHHS.gov/SUNBucks](https://ncdhhs.gov/SUNBucks). If you have a specific question the website doesn't answer, you can email DCFWSUNBucks@dhhs.nc.gov, or call **1-866-719-0141** and press Option 2 to speak with a SUN Bucks representative.

NC DHHS will also be posting updates across our social media on Facebook (NC Department of Health and Human Services), Instagram (@NCDHHS), and X/Twitter (@NCDHHS).