

July 11, 2023

To All Parents / Guardians:

The district has been made aware of families receiving a P-EBT (*Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer*) card in the mail, but without any explanation as to why the card was received or how it can be utilized.

The issuance of the P-EBT cards is a result of the Continuing Appropriates Act of 2021 and Other Extensions Act. As part of these acts, New York State has issued, or will be issuing, P-EBT cards to households with children who would have otherwise received free school meals during the 2021-2022 school year if the school was forced to operate with reduced in-person instruction, and/or if the child was absent or remote due to the COVID pandemic. Since the Hartford CSD was a Community Eligibility Provision district during the 2021-2022 school year, all students who were enrolled during the 2021-2022 school year should be eligible to receive the benefit, regardless of income. (*Please note, the Hartford CSD is still a Community Eligibility Provision district and is able to continue offering free breakfast and lunch to all students for the 2023-2024 school year.*)

According to the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, P-EBT cards were to be issued in April and May 2023 to eligible K-12 students and children under the age of 6 who were receiving SNAP benefits. Additionally, summer 2022 P-EBT food benefits will be issued automatically to all eligible children who were not eligible for automatic 2021-22 school year payments beginning in the spring of 2023 and ending by September 29, 2023.

For additional information, please visit: <u>https://otda.ny.gov/SNAP-COVID-19/Frequently-Asked-Questions-Pandemic-EBT.asp#faq-q1-1</u>

If you have further questions regarding your child's eligibility, please contact the P-EBT Helpline at 1-833-452-0096.

Sincerely,

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Andrew Cook Superintendent Hartford Central School District