



November 1, 2023

To: Chair Salomon, Vice Chair McClafferty, and members of the Education Interim Committee
RE: Summer EBT Questions

Chair Salomon and members of the Committee:

Thank you for reaching out to the Office of Public Instruction regarding our role in administering the Summer EBT Program for the summer of 2024.

1. Describe OPIs existing collaboration or plans to collaborate with DPHHS to apply for and implement Summer EBT in Summer 2024.

OPI and DPHHS have a history of successfully collaborating on similar programs such as the direct certification of children for the National School Lunch Program. We have had preliminary conversations about potential program design and roles and responsibilities while waiting for the Interim Final Rule to be published by the FNS. We have a good idea of what needs to be done to create files to send EBT benefits to eligible children for the summer. Until the IFR is published we do not have all the necessary details to establish full requirements. We have weekly meetings scheduled and we will be collaborating regularly to get the functionality implemented prior to May 1.

2. What will OPI's role be in collaboratively implementing the Summer EBT program with DPHHS?

OPI's responsibilities:

- a. OPI will have a project sponsor who works with the DPHHS project sponsor to support both sides of the project.
- b. OPI will have a project manager who works with the DPHHS project manager to ensure all tasks on each side are completed as needed.
- c. OPI will create and de-duplicate the list of free- or reduced- eligible children who are in the Direct Certification Application (DCA) in one of several ways.
 - i. OPI On-line free and reduced application student list (FRAPP)
 - ii. Auto-Uploaded by the schools in a provided template they must populate and upload
 - iii. Directly certified students
- d. The list will be sent to the DPHHS at some determined frequency (probably monthly) in an automated batch job, so DPHHS can do what it needs to do to issue monthly EBT benefits.
- e. OPI will provide any necessary reports on the data it manages.
- f. Below is a high level breakdown of responsibilities between agencies.



Duty / Action Required	Proposed Agency
Create/Manage Application	OPI
Receive Applications and validate eligibility	OPI
Issue Benefits via EBT Cards	DPHHS
Manage card usage/card issues	DPHHS
Expungement of funds after 4 months	DPHHS
Investigation of client fraud complaints	DPHHS
Client communications	OPI
Client Eligibility Issues	OPI
Lead Agency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiscal Agent • Reporting • Management Evaluations • Federal Agency Communication 	DPHHS

3. Does OPI anticipate any challenges in collaborating with DPHHS in implementing Summer EBT?

No. OPI works with DPHHS on several interfaces. Most recently we worked together to get Medicaid direct certification in place in a short timeframe. It was very successful.

4. Will OPI incur administrative costs related to Summer EBT? If so, what is OPI's plan for paying for these costs and how will administrative costs at OPI be incorporated in federal matching requirements for Summer EBT?

Yes. OPI will request administrative costs including the 50% state matching requirement. Next steps include developing an implementation and ongoing projected budget for these activities.

Sincerely,



Elsie Arntzen
State Superintendent