

207-1 Utah SUN Bucks - General Information

Policy Effective: April 28, 2025

State participation in the program is determined annually by legislative funding.

1. SUN Bucks is a program for students who lose access to free and reduced meals in the summer months when schools are closed. Sun Bucks is a benefit for families with students who are of compulsory school age. It provides low-income families with assistance in the form of electronic benefits, which can be used like cash at most grocery stores to ensure they have access to food during the summer months. For more information on electronic benefits, see policy [641](#), Utah Horizon - Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system.
2. Utah SUN Bucks cannot be used to buy school meals.

Where to Use SUN Bucks

1. SUN Bucks households can use their SUN Bucks at stores authorized to accept the Utah Horizon SNAP assistance card and other locations where SNAP assistance is accepted.

What Can be Bought with SUN Bucks

1. Edible foods, seeds, plants for a home garden, and fruit trees can be purchased with SUN Bucks.

What Cannot be Bought with SUN Bucks

SUN Bucks cannot be used to buy:

1. Alcoholic beverages
2. Household products
3. Cigarettes
4. Pet foods
5. Ready-to-eat hot foods in other than authorized facilities
6. Paper products

Immigration and Citizenship

Immigration or citizenship is not a program requirement.

The household may voluntarily supply Social Security Numbers (SSNs) for all household members. If a customer does not have an SSN, benefits will not be denied or withheld as long as the other factors of eligibility are met. Only the last 4 digits of the SSN are required of the adult primary applicant if they have been issued an SSN. SSNs that are supplied may be verified with the Social Security interface. Refer to the *Information on the Rights of All Children to Enroll in School: Questions and Answers for States, School Districts and Parents* issued jointly by the U.S Department of Education and U.S Department of Justice.

Participation Requirements for SUN Bucks

1. The household must have a student of compulsory school age (6-18) and be approved for SNAP, TANF, or Medicaid during at least one month of the school year before the Summer Operational Period (SOP) or the SOP and would be reported through direct certification.
2. The household must have a student enrolled in an NSLP school and be approved for free or reduced school meals with a Free and Reduced Price School Meal application by one of the participating NSLP schools in any Utah School District or participating Charter School. The student also had to attend school in Utah during the school year right before the current SOP.
 - a. Students outside of compulsory school age (6-18) who attend an NSLP school could receive Utah SUN Bucks (younger or older up to age 22). These students would qualify if they are included on their NSLP school's participation roll for school meals (they must be offered lunch during the school year as part of their regular day to qualify).
3. The household has a student enrolled in a CEP or Provision 1, 2, or 3 school who applies using the state application for Utah SUN Bucks. The student must be of compulsory school age (6-18) and enrolled at an NSLP participating school in any Utah School District or participating Charter School.
 - a. Students outside of compulsory school age (6-18) who attend an NSLP school could receive Utah SUN Bucks (younger or older up to age 22). These students would qualify if they are included on their CEP or Provision 1, 2, or 3 school's participation rolls for school meals (they must be offered lunch during the school year as part of their regular day to qualify).

Income Limits

Income limits are set by Federal and State Laws and Regulations. Income is reported via customer statement.

1. SUN Bucks income limits are updated with the Child Nutrition Program limits annually.
SUN Bucks Income Limit [Table](#)
2. Income from all household members is counted for SUN Bucks. The tables below give examples of income that might be received, but do not limit income to those items.
 - a. Sources of Income for Adults

Sources of Income for Adults		
Earnings from Work	Public Assistance / Alimony / Child Support	Pensions / Retirement / All Other Income
- Salary, wages, cash bonuses - Net income from self-employment (farm or business) If you are in the U.S. Military: - Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA or privatized housing allowances) - Allowances for off-base housing, food and clothing	-Unemployment benefits -Worker's compensation -Supplemental Security Income (SSI) -Cash assistance from State or local government -Alimony payments -Child support payments - Veteran's benefits - Strike benefits	- Social Security (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits) -Private pensions or disability benefits -Regular income from trusts or estates -Annuities -Investment income -Earned interest -Rental income -Regular cash payments from outside household

b. Sources of Income for Children

Sources of Income for Children	
Sources of Child Income	Example(s)
- Earnings from work	- A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages
- Social Security (Disability Payments Survivor's Benefits)	-A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security benefits -A Parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits
-Income from a person outside the household	- A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money
-Income from any other source	- A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust

Asset Limits

There is no asset limit for SUN Bucks.

Issuance Amount, Payment Determination, EBT Cards

The SUN Bucks allotment is \$120 per SOP. The initial SOP mass issuance will be made no more than 14 days and no less than 7 days before the start of the SOP each year. SUN Bucks benefits will be issued every Wednesday for the rest of the SOP for applications approved during the SOP.

A Utah Horizon card will be used to issue SUN Bucks to all SNAP, Financial, and Medicaid recipients. A Utah Horizon card will be mailed to all Medicaid households with qualifying children. A Utah SUN Bucks card will be used to issue benefits to all households with students participating only in SUN Bucks. The cards for students only participating in SUN Bucks will be issued in the student's name.

The expiration of SUN Bucks is 122 days after issuance. If issued on a Utah Horizon card with SNAP or TANF funds, SUN Bucks will be used first.

Over the Counter Issuance (OTC) of SUN Bucks replacement cards will be done if it has been 15 days since the card was issued and benefits have been approved.

For additional Electronic Benefit Transfer rules see policy 641

Case Maintenance

Applications will be open from April through the end of the SOP in years that Utah operates SUN Bucks. If the program is funded permanently, applications will remain open year-round. Applications will be processed, and a notice of eligibility or denial will be sent to the customer no more than 15 days from the date of application.

Once a student has been determined eligible, the student is eligible for the current SOP and will receive the full benefit regardless of when the application is submitted during the SOP.

Verification is done after benefits are approved. A Verification of income of all household members is required in a random 3% of applications approved by DWS. A notice will notify the customer/household if they must provide income verification. *Verification is conducted per 42 U.S.C. § 1758.*

1. Electronic means of income verification should be attempted before the customer/household is asked to provide income verification.

- a. If the customer/household does not participate in the random verification when their application is selected, the customer/household must provide income verification in future program years before their application will be processed or benefits issued.

The customer may be subject to verification for cause.

1. Verification for cause may occur if there is reason to suspect a problem with an application, such as conflicting information or possible misrepresentation. If an application is denied and the customer/household reapplies with different income or household information, in the same SOP, verification may be required.
2. If a household is subject to verification for cause, then the benefits will not be issued until the verifications have been provided.

A customer may choose to opt out of participation with SUN Bucks at any point before the SOP or the benefit has been issued.

1. The customer can opt out of participation for only one program year at a time.

Overpayments

Sun Bucks benefits cannot be used to recoup SNAP overpayments. The overpayment thresholds mirror SNAP policy 800.

Fair Hearing

The SUN Bucks Fair Hearing Information [Document](#). All other Fair Hearings information mirrors SNAP policy 125.

See Also:

Procedure:

APPROVING OR DENYING A SUN BUCKS APPLICATION

ADDING/UPDATING SUNBUCKS INCOME INFORMATION

HOW TO SUBMIT STUDENT INFORMATION TO SUN BUCKS STAFF AT DWS

IMAGING/OPERATIONS– REGISTERING A NEW SUN BUCKS CASE

SEARCHING FOR A SUN BUCKS CASE MEMBER

TYPES OF APPLICATIONS

UPDATING SUNBUCKS HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION

SUN BUCKS (SUMMER EBT) OVER-THE-COUNTER CARD ISSUANCE