

Pandemic-EBT Card Open House

Weld Re-8 School District

Fort Lupton, CO



The COVID-19 pandemic impacted student’s education, employment, and health. Weld Re-8 school district understood that students and families were struggling with online learning, especially with getting access to the internet, but the district also understood that there were other struggles families were going through. When having conversations with families, the district learned that many families were losing their jobs and therefore struggling to put food on their tables.

Many families reached out to their schools to ask if they knew of any resources in the community that would help with food. This made the district realize families needed additional resources beyond school. As a result, the district shared information regarding the Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) program and offered families support with the application process.

In collaboration with Centennial BOCES (CBOCES) and Weld Re-8’s District Family & Community Specialist, parents were invited to attend a Pandemic EBT Open House. During the event, families received help to apply for the P-EBT card to help with the purchase of food. The district offered two dates for the Open House to provide flexibility for families, one day in the morning and the other in the afternoon. Following social distance guides, parents were asked to schedule an appointment before they came to the district to get help applying for the card. In total, 49 families attended the Open House to receive help with the application process. Weld Re-8 staff offered another Open House in May 2021 for the second round of P-EBT cards. This practice created a quality experience for all families, students, and staff.

After the two events, the district received calls from families needing help to apply, not only from the Weld Re-8 district but from other districts as well. Many families expressed gratitude for sharing the information and taking the time to help them apply. Families from other districts were also grateful because the District Family & Community specialist did not turn them away because they were from another district.

Advice for colleagues wanting to replicate this program would be to learn about the program before information is shared with families and community partners. Families had many questions, so the district/CBOCES team had to make sure they were prepared to answer all questions. It is also important to share resources using different methods including calls, social media, folders sent home, and email.