



Belmont Charter Network

A FAMILY
OF SCHOOLS

Dear BCN Families,

We hope that your summer is off to a great start. We know that everyone is wondering about our fall plans for reopening and while guidance is still forthcoming and many of the variables that impact our decisions are still unknown, we wanted to share our current plans with you.

Although we are still reviewing this guidance, we do know that currently Philadelphia is in the Yellow Phase according to the Governor's PA Color Phases and so much of our planning is taking the recommendations of this phase and will involve an opening of school with a hybrid learning model. Should guidance change or the color phase change to green we would plan to be able to accommodate more students for more of the time. If it turns back to red we will be prepared to continue to offer our students virtual learning.

Click on the following link for a presentation of slides that provides more specific information:

[BCN Reopening Schools 2020-2021](#)

We understand that parents and guardians may have questions and schools will be holding parent meetings to review these plans and gather questions in the coming weeks and we know more. We are committed to sending out information as we move forward in our planning.

Please take a moment to read through the remainder of this email for resources, information and updates:

Health and Safety Plan

The health and safety of our students and staff is at the forefront of all of our decisions. We are using guidance for schools from the Center of Disease Control, the Department of Health (DOH) and the American Academy of Pediatrics so that schools may plan safely. Health and Safety plans for each campus are being developed and will be reviewed by our Board of Directors on July 15th and posted to our website on our [Covid-19 Resources Page](#).

Food Distribution Center now includes a Pop Up Pantry:

Our food center will remain open for regular student meals and pet food distribution every Monday and Thursday from 9-12pm throughout the summer. Pop Up Pantries to meet additional food needs and will take place on the following dates:

Mondays: July 20, August 3, August 17 and August 30th.

Distribution takes place between 9-12pm at the Belmont Academy (907 N. 41st Street) .

Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT)

What is Pandemic-EBT?

The Family's First Coronavirus Response Act authorized a new benefit called Pandemic EBT to help families with children who are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. The benefit will come on an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card, which is like a debit card. The benefits can only be spent on food items at any store that accepts SNAP ("food stamps"). P-EBT is a one-time payment that is intended for families to use to buy food for their children who would otherwise be receiving free or reduced-price meals if schools were open.

Which Belmont Charter School and Inquiry Charter School families are eligible for P-EBT?

All families. Since both Belmont Charter School Grades (K-11) and Inquiry Charter School are enrolled in the National School Lunch Program and participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), 100% of families enrolled in our schools are eligible for this benefit.

All Head Start families through the Community Education Alliance of West Philadelphia are also eligible since Head Start students participate in the National School Lunch food program.

Because we have the CEP designation, your child(ren) will be automatically signed up for P-EBT. Parents do not need to submit anything in order to receive this benefit.

How much in P-EBT benefits will you receive?

Households will receive \$5.70 per day per child for each missed school day. Since our schools are CEP and your child(ren) was receiving free meals when schools closed, you should receive \$370.50 for each child.

How will you get the P-EBT card?

If you are currently receiving SNAP (Food Stamps) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF/cash assistance) benefits, the state will deposit onto your current EBT card the Pandemic-EBT amount for each student who is enrolled at Belmont Charter School and/or Inquiry Charter School.

If you don't already have an EBT card, you will receive a P-EBT card in the mail with instructions on how to use it. **In order for you to receive a P-EBT card in the mail, your school must have your current address!** Please contact your school as soon as possible to ensure your address information is up to date.

When will you receive this benefit?

Households already receiving SNAP (food stamps), Medical Assistance, or TANF Cash Assistance will receive P-EBT benefits first, likely in late May. Families who will be getting a card mailed to them will likely begin receiving their benefits in June.

Questions?

Additional questions about this benefit, please reach out to the following website:

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/Coronavirus-Pandemic-EBT.aspx>

Family Support Services - These are uncertain times and we want our families to know that we are here as a resource throughout the summer. Our family support services program can help you navigate any challenges that your family may encounter during this time **including support and assistance with internet access, housing or food instability**. Please do not hesitate to reach out (267) 990-8284 and a member of our team will be glad to assist you.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Faustman
CEO, Belmont Charter Network