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Attention: Massachusetts SNAP EBT Chip Cards Arriving in 2026!

Starting in May 2026, the State of Massachusetts will begin issuing new EBT cards with chip and tap to pay technology. This change is designed to help keep benefits safe. This change is supported by the United States Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS).

What You Need to Know

- The new SNAP EBT cards will have a chip, tap to pay functionality, and a magnetic stripe.
- Your store's Point-of-Sale (POS) system must be updated to accept the new chip and/or tap EBT cards.
- If your POS system is not ready for chip and/or tap cards, it needs to allow chip/tap cards to "fallback" to the magnetic stripe until chip/tap support is fully available. This is called ECL fallback.
- Customers will still enter their PIN for purchases, even with chip or tap payments.

What You Need to Do Right Now

1. Contact your POS service provider today. Ask if your POS system can handle EBT chip/tap cards and if the system cannot handle the EBT chip/tap card, allow ECL fallback to magnetic stripe.
2. Request your POS provider to update system so it can accept SNAP EBT chip cards by **May 2026**.
3. Tell your POS provider that the new chip cards will use:
 - Contact and Tap technology
 - New EBT Application Identifier (AID) **A00000000044542**
 - 220 service code on Track II of the magstripe
 - If your POS service provider needs more information, tell them to contact their Third-Party Processor (TPP)

Need Help?



Visit the SNAP EBT Modernization Technical Assistance Center FAQ:
<https://www.nationalgrocers.org/semtac/ebt-chip-cards/>



Find SNAP EBT Chip Card technical resources and learn about SNAP EBT Modernization:
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/ebt/modernization>

If you need to contact DTA about this change, please email us at DTA.EBT@mass.gov. We will also publish information about EBT chip/tap cards on our website at www.mass.gov/EBTForRetailers.

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