Today’s piece was prepared by Maraisha Philogene, MD based on an NPR article [‘Children are Going Hungry’: Why Schools are Struggling to Feed Students](https://www.npr.org/2020/09/08/908442609/children-are-going-hungry-why-schools-are-struggling-to-feed-students)

The article begins with the question about how 30 million children in America during the pandemic who depend on subsidized meals from schools obtain these meals when remote learning is continued. The journalist highlights the *U.S. Census Bureau's weekly Household Pulse Survey* noting that among low-income households with children who qualify for free or reduced-price school meals, only about 15% have been getting those meals (down 50-90% compared with last year) and describes financial and logistical complications, as well as strategies some school districts have come up with to provide meals (such as following a summer programming model with specific schools designated to provide meals), but with varying results. Complications include parent access to free time and transportation.

The article emphasizes the importance of the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT), whose Brookings Institute author notes that EBT "kept between 2.5 [million] and 3.5 million children out of hunger this summer." This statement, however, may be misleading as it’s not at all clear that there are data to firmly support such statistics ([link to analysis here](https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/P-EBT_LO_7.30.pdf)). The story relies on multiple anecdotal statements, making it difficult to extrapolate the real scale of food insecurity in children during the pandemic and remote learning.

**RESOURCES ON FOOD INSECURITY:**

[Food and Food System Resources During COVID-19 Pandemic](https://www.cdc.gov/nutrition/resources-publications/food-and-food-system-resources-during-covid-19-pandemic.html) *Centers for Disease Control & Prevention*

[Student Meals During Remote Learning: Pandemic EBT](https://www.seattleschools.org/resources/student_meals) *Seattle Public Schools*

[Washington Information Network](https://wa211.org/) *Connects people in need to services in Washington State; Includes emergency food map*

[Child Nutrition Programs](https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn) *USDA Food and Nutrition Service; Multiple programs are listed*

And that’s today’s Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics: IN THE NEWS!