

WSR 26-19-105 - Department of Social and Health Services: extending emergency amendments to WAC 388-487-0010 What is the sun bucks program?, 388-487-0020 Is my child eligible for sun bucks?, and 388-487-0030...

Published September 21, 2026

Statewide, WA - Washington statewide County, WA

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WSR 26-19-105 (26-19) WSR 26-19-105

EMERGENCY RULES

DEPARTMENT OF

SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

(Economic Services Administration)

[Filed September 21, 2026, 1:58 p.m., effective September 23, 2026]

Effective Date of Rule: September 23, 2026.

Purpose: The department of social and health services (department) is extending emergency amendments to WAC 388-487-0010 What is the sun bucks program?, 388-487-0020 Is my child eligible for sun bucks?, and 388-487-0030 General information about sun bucks benefits. These amendments support continued implementation of the summer electronic benefits transfer program, also known as sun bucks, for the 2026 summer operational period. The amendments are in accordance with a recent federally approved state plan. Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Amending WAC 388-487-0010, 388-487-0020, and 388-487-0030. Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 74.04.050 , 74.04.055 , 74.04.057 , 74.04.500 , 74.04.510 , 74.08.090 , and 74.08A.120 .

Other Authority: Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (H.R. 2617).

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this Finding: Emergency rule making is justified because of the federal deadline that has been imposed. The department is concurrently pursuing the permanent rule-making process. Refer to CR-103E filed as WSR 26-12-024 on May 26, 2026, CR-101 filed as WSR 26-12-025 on May 26, 2026, and CR-102 filed as WSR 26-18-066 on August 31, 2026, with a public hearing scheduled for October 6, 2026.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 3, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 3, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: September 18, 2026.

Katherine I. Vasquez

Rules Coordinator

SHS-5139.3

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 26-01-114, filed 12/16/25, effective 1/16/26)

WAC 388-487-0010 What is the sun bucks program?

The sun bucks program is the summer electronic benefits transfer (EBT) program that provides a one-time food benefit to eligible children during designated summer periods following an academic school year. Sun bucks is administered by the department of social and health services and is not bound by the same state or federal rules, regulations, or procedures governing basic food as described in WAC 388-400-0040. The administration of sun bucks requires an annual USDA FNA approved state plan.

The following definitions apply to this program:

- (1) "Authorized non-household" member means a non-household member person selected by the household to complete a sun bucks application.
- (2) "Categorically eligible" means a school age child, as defined in this section, who automatically qualifies for sun bucks because they are:

Matter furnished by the Washington Office of the Code Reviser (Washington State Register). Notice Nearby did not write this notice.

Source: Washington State Register

Published: 2026-09-21

Original: <https://lawfilesext.leg.wa.gov/law/wsr/2026/19/26-19-105.htm>

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