**Technical Assistance: SNAP Rules Change for Students**

**How to use this material:**

FNS-SNAP is providing the example on the following pages to help all State Agencies develop their own letter/notice to provide to households about the changes in student exemptions for SNAP. Sending such a letter/notice is a best practice. Your State Agency should send the letter before the Federal public health emergency ends. States may also use content from this example to develop other informational materials.



**Case ID Number:** 12345A

**Letter Date:** [Insert date]

**Program:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

State Department of Human Services

123 Main Street

Hometown, ST 12345-6789

# SNAP Rules Change for Students

***Find Out if Your SNAP Benefits Are Affected***

*This letter includes information for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households that include a student enrolled in an institution of higher education at least half time.* ***If there are no such students in your household, you may disregard this letter.***

## What do you need to know?

The rules about SNAP eligibility for students are changing and some students may no longer be eligible. You may need to provide additional information to your caseworker when you recertify in order to continue your SNAP benefits.

## Why are student rules changing now?

During the COVID-19 public health emergency, a law was passed that made more students temporarily eligible for SNAP. These rules applied to students with an Expected Family Contribution of 0 and students eligible to participate in State or Federally financed work-study. Now, the COVID-19 public health emergency is coming to an end. This means the temporary student rules will begin to end in June 2023.

## What do you need to do?

* If your certification period ends in April, May or June, and you recertify for SNAP by June 30, 2023 and you are still considered a student, you may still qualify under the temporary student rules. Complete your recertification as normal.
* If you recertify for SNAP after June 30, 2023, and you are still considered a student, you **must** meet a student exemption. As always, students must also meet all other SNAP eligibility requirements to receive SNAP.

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## Who is considered a student?

For SNAP purposes, you are a student if you are enrolled at least half-time in an institution of higher education. This means you are enrolled in:

* A regular curriculum at a college or university, such as a bachelor’s degree program[[1]](#footnote-2); or
* A business, technical, trade, or vocational school that normally requires a high school diploma or a General Education Degree (GED).

The institution of higher education determines what is considered half-time enrollment. Your college, university, or school can tell you your enrollment status.

## What are the student exemptions?

If you recertify after June 30, 2023, you might still be eligible for SNAP. Generally, students attending an institution of higher education more than half-time **must** meet a student exemption to be eligible for SNAP.

Students qualify for a student exemption if they:

* Are under age 18 or are age 50 or older.
* Have a physical or mental disability.
* Work at least 20 hours a week in paid employment.
* Participate in a State or federally financed work study program.
* Participate in an on-the-job training program.
* Care for a child under the age of 6.
* Care for a child age 6 to 11 and lack the necessary child care enabling you to attend school and work 20 hours a week or participate in work study.
* Are a single parent enrolled full-time in college and taking care of a child under 12.
* Receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).
* Are assigned to, placed in, or self-placed in a college or other institution of higher education through certain employment and training programs, such as the SNAP Employment & Training program.

**Call us at** [**1-800-123-4567]** if you are not sure if you meet one of the exemptions.

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### What happens if you do not meet a student exemption?

If you are a student and do not meet a student exemption at your next recertification, your benefits may decrease or end.

### If you lose your SNAP benefits, how can you get them back?

If you are a student and start meeting a student exemption, **you can get SNAP benefits again**. You can reapply for SNAP online, in-person, or over the phone [Edit to State details]. You can also get SNAP benefits again if something changes and there are reasons you no longer need to meet a student exemption. For example, you may get SNAP benefits back if you are enrolled less than half-time or are no longer a student.

### What if you need more help?

If you have questions or need more information, please call us at 1-800-123-4567, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m.–7:30 p.m. You may also visit our website ([www.dhs.st.gov](file:///C:/Users/Paul/Downloads/snap_notices/www.dhs.st.gov)) for more information.

Sincerely,

State Department of Human Services

123 Main Street

Hometown, ST 12345-6789

1-800-123-4567

[www.dhs.st.gov](http://www.dhs.st.gov/)

**Please read on to find out more about your rights and responsibilities.**

For notices in large print or another format, please call our helpline at 1-800-123-4567 or TDD 1-800-456-7890.

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Note: Please do not send any application materials to the address above. The address above is for civil rights complaints only. Please send application materials to the address below:

**State Department of Human Services**

**123 Main Street**

**Hometown, ST 12345-6789**

If you have questions or need more information, please call us at 1-800-123-4567, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m.–7:30 p.m. You may also visit our website ([www.dhs.st.gov](file:///C:/Users/Paul/Downloads/snap_notices/www.dhs.st.gov)) for more information.

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1. Programs like remedial education, continuing or community education, professional development, English for Speakers of Other Languages, and workforce development/training programs are not considered part of a regular curriculum. If you are in a program like this, you are not a student for SNAP purposes. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)