

SNAP Student Eligibility Reference Guide

For Food Assistance, student status doesn't apply to... {4.306}

Individuals under age 18 or over age 49.

Individuals attending High School or pursuing a GED.

Individuals attending school less than ½ time.

Individuals deemed physically or mentally unfit for employment.
(Includes those involved in Vocational Rehabilitation.)

Individuals participating in on-the-job training in an employment environment.
(This doesn't include internships, field work or practical experience.)

Individuals enrolled full-time in a school and training program that isn't considered an institution of higher education.

What makes a student eligible for Food Assistance? {4.306.1}

Students must fall into one of three categories in order to be eligible. This criteria should be reviewed during the interview or at RRR.

A change in student status is not considered part of Simplified Reporting.
(Example: Someone becoming an ineligible student during the certification period should not take effect until RRR.)

Student Category 1: Work/Employment Factors

Employed for an average of 20 hours a week. (As long as it adds up to 80 hours a month.)

Self-employed for an average of 20 hours a week (as long as it adds up to 80 hours a month), with weekly earnings equal or greater to the federal minimum wage multiplied by 20 hours.
Note: Don't forget to allow the appropriate self-employment deductions.

Participating in a work-study program. (State or Federal.)
Note: Work-study income is exempt for FA.

Student Category 2: Care/Control Factors

For Two-Parent Households: if the student is responsible for more than half of the care of a dependent household member under the age of six.

Note: The Parental Care and Control of a child under six is applied to one adult *per* child.
(Example: Two parents and two children under six. Each adult is given Parental Care and Control for one child.)

For Single-Parent Households: if the full-time student is responsible for the care of a dependent child under the age of 12. The child must be either a natural, adoptive or step-child who resides in the same home.

Student Category 3: Employment-Related Public Assistance Factors

Actively receiving Colorado Works (TANF)

Participating in an on-the-job training program

Attending school through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), Employment First, Section 236 of the Trade Act of 197, or a state or local government employment and training program, or due to the JOBS program (under SSA Title IV)

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What if I have an ineligible student?

If an ineligible student requests FA, verification of their income and/or resource information should not be requested. Since they are not considered household members, their income and/or resource information is considered exempt.

What if an ineligible student is receiving Unemployment Insurance Benefits (UIB)?

If a student is receiving UIB, it does not make them an eligible student. The receipt of UIB does not impact student eligibility for FA.

If an ineligible student reports at RRR that they're no longer enrolled in school, would I need to verify?

Verification would be required if the information is questionable. Best practice is to attempt a collateral contact if information is questionable.

Be aware the customer may have to be referred to Employment First and provide verification if an EF exemption must be applied.

What if an eligible student is receiving financial aid?

As of November 2016, financial aid (including work-study) monies are exempt for all CDHS programs. For Food Assistance, this income does not need to be verified as it will not impact eligibility for FA.

Financial aid may still impact eligibility for Medical Assistance programs and will need to be verified and data entered for those programs. For Food Assistance, the receipt of work-study may have to be verified and entered into CBMS if the applicant would be considered an eligible student due to their work-study income.

What if a student's work-study income is the only thing that makes them eligible for FA?

What if a student participating in work-study needs to be exempted from Employment First?

Refer to the *SNAP Procedure for entering Financial Aid and Work-Study*.

For FA/CW/AF, work-study income is considered exempt. However, it must be data entered into CBMS to allow FA to recognize the customer as an eligible student. Depending on the verification received, CBMS will determine if the appropriate EF exemption needs to be applied.