



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

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General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

Transmittal:	23 TA/DC033 Upstate and New York City
Date:	April 27, 2023
To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	Commissioners, SNAP Directors, TA Directors, Employment Coordinators
From:	Valerie Figueroa, Deputy Commissioner, Employment and Income Support Programs
Subject:	Expiration of the temporary Expansion of SNAP Student Eligibility Exemption Criteria
Effective Date:	Immediately
Contact Information:	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Questions – SNAP Bureau 518-473-1469 or otda.sm.cees.snap@otda.ny.gov
Attachments:	Attachment 1 - End of the Temporary COVID-19 SNAP Student Eligibility Exemptions—Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Section 2

The purpose of this GIS is to provide social services districts (districts) with updated guidance regarding temporary policy changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) college student eligibility rules, as previously outlined in [21TA/DC023](#).

These changes were enacted as part of the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 and expanded SNAP eligibility to include the following temporary student exemptions:

- Eligible to participate in a State or federally financed work study program, or
- Had an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of \$0 on their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in the current academic year.

Due to the end of the federal public health emergency (PHE), students will no longer have the ability to utilize these temporary exemptions to qualify for SNAP; however, students may continue to be eligible for SNAP if they meet another, permanent student exemption. Individuals who meet the criteria to be considered an eligible student for SNAP must meet all other SNAP eligibility criteria.

Timeline for Expiration of Temporary Student Exemptions

These two temporary student eligibility exemptions are scheduled to end because the federal PHE is expiring on May 11th, 2023. The temporary exemptions will remain in effect for an additional 30 days after the PHE expires in the following manner:

For **new applications**, the temporary student exemptions can be applied to applications submitted **on or before June 9, 2023**. After that date, only the permanent exemptions can be considered when determining eligibility.

For students **recertifying**, the temporary student exemptions can be applied to recertifications **submitted by June 30, 2023**. Recertification applications **submitted** through June 30, 2023, must be processed using the temporary student exemptions, regardless of when the recertification is processed or the household's expiring certification end date. Recertifications **submitted** on or after July 1, 2023, must be processed using only the permanent exemption criteria. Students in households that submit their recertification application by June 30, 2023, and are recertified retain their temporary student exemption until their next recertification.

Student Eligibility Requirements and Exemptions

With the expiration of the temporary student exemptions, districts are encouraged to carefully screen students for SNAP eligibility. Many students who met one of the temporary exemptions may continue to be eligible for SNAP using one of the permanent student eligibility exemptions.

A student is defined as any person 18 through 49 years of age, physically and mentally fit, and enrolled at least half-time in an institution of higher education. An individual meeting these criteria is considered a student and therefore must qualify for one of the following permanent student exemptions under [7 CFR 273.5 \(b\)](#) to be eligible for SNAP:

- a. Be age 17 or younger or age 50 or older;
- b. Have a physical or mental disability;
- c. Be receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF);
- d. Be employed for a minimum of 20 hours per week and be paid for such employment or, if self-employed, be employed for a minimum of 20 hours per week and receive weekly earnings at least equal to the Federal minimum wage multiplied by 20 hours;
- e. Be participating in a State or federally financed work study program during the regular school year;
- f. Be responsible for the care of a dependent household member under the age of six;
- g. Be responsible for the care of a dependent household member who has reached the age of 6 but is under age 12, where adequate childcare is not available to enable the individual to attend class and work 20 hours per week or participate in a State or federally financed work study program;
- h. Be a single parent enrolled in an institution of higher education on a full-time basis (as determined by the institution) and responsible for the care of a dependent child under the age 12;
- i. Be assigned to or placed in an institution of higher learning through or in compliance with one of the following programs:
 1. The Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA);
 2. A SNAP E&T Program;
 3. A Department of Labor program under Section 236 of the Trade Act of 1974;
- j. Engaged in an employment and training program for low-income households that is operated by a State or local government where one or more of the components of such program is at least equivalent to an acceptable SNAP E&T program component as specified in §273.7(e)(1).
- k. Attending a State University of New York (SUNY) or City University of New York (CUNY) comprehensive college, technology college, or community college and are enrolled in a qualified certificate or degree Career or Technical Education (CTE) program, and students attending an Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) and enrolled in a CTE program, remedial courses, basic adult education, literacy, or English as a second language (see [20-ADM-13](#) for further details). Form [LDSS-5172](#) has been previously released to fulfill the verification requirement for this exemption.

Education and Outreach

In addition to the United States Department of Education’s targeted outreach plan, the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) will be coordinating with SUNY and CUNY systems to inform students about the end of the temporary SNAP eligibility exemptions and provide support for continuing outreach efforts to potentially eligible students.

OTDA has developed the attached *End of the Temporary COVID-19 SNAP Student Eligibility Exemptions—Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)*, which outlines important information about the end of the temporary student eligibility exemptions and how some students may remain eligible for SNAP due to at least one of the permanent student eligibility exemptions. This FAQ can also be accessed by visiting the OTDA College Student Expanded SNAP Rules [webpage](#).