



SNAP Rules Change for Students

Find Out if Your SNAP Benefits Are Affected

*This letter includes information for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households with a student enrolled in an institution of higher education at least half-time. **You may disregard this letter if no students are enrolled in an institution of higher education in your household.***

What do you need to do?

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 to continue your SNAP benefits.

Why are student rules changing now?

During the COVID-19 public health emergency, a new rule made more students temporarily eligible for SNAP. These rules applied to students with an Expected Family Contribution of \$0 and 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 know?

If you recertify for SNAP after June 30, 2023, and you are considered a student, you or your situation must fit into specific categories called student exemptions. As always, students must also meet all other SNAP eligibility requirements to receive SNAP.

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 the following:

- A regular curriculum at a college or university, such as a bachelor's degree program¹; 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?

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.

If you recertify after June 30, 2023, and are excused from the SNAP student rules by meeting one of the reasons listed below, you might still be eligible for SNAP. Students attending an institution of higher education more than half-time **must** meet a student exemption to be eligible for SNAP. Students are eligible for SNAP if they meet one of the following student exemptions:

- Age 17 or younger or 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 aged 6 to 11 and lack the necessary child care needed 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 the age of 12;
- Receive Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) or,
- 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 Next Step Employment & Training program.

Call us at 1-800-383-4278 if you are still determining if you meet one of the exemptions.

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 by calling ACCESSNebraska at **1-800-383-4278**. 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 **1-800-383-4278**, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. You may also visit our website at www.accessnebraska.ne.gov for more details.

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

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Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at:

<https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (833) 620-1071, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to:

1. **mail:**

Food and Nutrition Service, USDA
1320 Braddock Place, Room 334
Alexandria, VA 22314; or

2. **fax:**

(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

3. **email:**

FNSCIVILRIGHTSCOMPLAINTS@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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:

Nebraska DHHS

PO Box 2992

Omaha, NE 68102

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