

CalFresh Outreach Basics

Student Exemptions

Definition of a Student

Following California Department of Social Services (CDSS) guidelines, a student is defined as “aged 18-49, physically and mentally fit for employment, and enrolled at least half time.”

Half-time is defined as enrolled in at least six units or more as defined by the institution. An institution of higher education is defined as “business, trade, technical or vocational schools normally requiring a high school diploma or GED to enroll; or a junior, community, two-year or four-year college or university, or graduate school,” ([MPP § 63-406.111\(a\),\(1\),\(2\)](#)).

Students who are graduating or taking an academic leave of absence and are not enrolled in classes for the next school term do **NOT** need to meet student exemptions.

Student Eligibility/Exemptions

Students are required to meet basic eligibility requirements and at least ONE of the following student exemptions:

- Working or self-employed and getting paid for at least 20 hours of work per week or a total of 80 hours per month

- Approved (Awarded or Accepted) for Federal Work Study, anticipates working, and have not refused a work assignment
 - Can still be eligible even if a work study job has not begun or is not currently available
- Receiving TANF funded Cal Grant A or B
- Enrolled in a Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program or a Local Program that Increases Employability (LPIE)
- Exerting parental control over a dependent household member under the age of 6 or between the age 6 and 12 with no adequate child care **OR** single parent of a dependent household member under the age of 12
- Receiving CalWORKs

Meal Plans

Students who live in on-campus housing and have a meal plan of **11 or more meals a week** are not eligible for CalFresh. However, students who have a meal plan of **10 meals or less a week** may be eligible.

Students who live off-campus or commute **AND** have a campus meal plan are not considered to be residents of the campus institution and may be eligible to CalFresh. However, if off-campus students are receiving 50% or more of their meals from the institution they reside at, they are considered residents of that institution and would not be eligible for CalFresh.



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Communities