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|  Department of Children & Family Services <i>Building a Stronger Louisiana</i> | Division/Section | Family Support |
| | Chapter No./Name | 4 – Economic Stability (ES) |
| | Part No./Name | E – Special Households |
| | Section No./Name | E-200-FITAP-SNAP Special Households |
| | Document No./Name | E-260-SNAP Students |
| | Effective Date | June 1, 2023 |

I. STATEMENT OF POLICY

E-261-SNAP - PO STUDENTS

An individual enrolled at least half-time in an institution of higher education (IHE) shall be ineligible to participate in SNAP unless the individual meets at least one of the student eligibility conditions listed in section E-262-SNAP. * A determination must be made whether an individual is enrolled in an institution of higher education for SNAP eligibility purposes. Refer to section E-261-SNAP PR on how to make that determination.** If the determination is that an individual is not enrolled in an institution of higher education as defined below, the student eligibility conditions are not applicable and eligibility will be determined in accordance with ongoing policy.

Enrollment begins the first day of the school term. For example, a high school senior may be accepted by a college and register for classes before graduation, but the agency does not consider him enrolled until the first day of the college term.

Once enrolled, the agency considers the student enrolled through vacation and recess, until he graduates, is expelled, drops out, or does not intend to register for the next usual term. For example, a student remains enrolled during summer vacations unless he does not intend to return to school in the fall.

An individual is considered enrolled in an institution of higher education if he is enrolled in a:


- Business, technical, trade, or vocational school that normally requires a high school diploma or equivalency certificate (GED) for enrollment in the curriculum, or
- Regular curriculum at a college or university that offers degree programs regardless of whether a high school diploma or equivalency certificate (GED) is required.

NOTE: Many trade schools have courses that do not normally require a high school diploma or its equivalent (such as courses for barbers, auto mechanics, etc.). Individuals enrolled in these courses are not considered enrolled in an institution of higher education, even though other courses in the same trade school may require a high school diploma or its equivalent.

There are several SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) providers that are contracted with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to provide SNAP E&T program services to SNAP recipients. These providers are identified on the [DCFS SNAP Employment and Training web page](#) on the DCFS website. Most individuals participating in these programs are not considered to be enrolled in an institution of higher education.

E-261-1-SNAP – PO Student Income and Resources

All student financial assistance, including loans on which payment is deferred, grants, scholarships, fellowships, Veteran's educational benefits, federal and state work study programs, and other similar

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educational assistance, is disregarded as income and resources. This applies to all students, including those enrolled in an institution of higher education, those not enrolled in an institution of higher education, and ineligible students.

Funds such as those noted above are disregarded as income and resources because they are specifically earmarked for educational purposes and are provided to individuals based on their status as students. However, money provided to students from other sources would not be disregarded.

Example: A college student receives money from her mother to help pay for tuition and books. Even though the money is intended and used to pay the student’s expenses, the money would not be excluded as educational income, but would be considered as a cash gift, either as lump sum resource in the month received, or as unearned income if received in installments.

E-262-SNAP - PO STUDENT ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS


To be eligible to receive SNAP, a student enrolled in an institution of higher education must meet at least one of the following conditions:

- Under age 18 or over age 49.
- Physically or mentally unfit.
- Receiving FITAP benefits.
- Employed for * pay at least 80 hours per month. If self-employed, work at least 80 hours per month and earn at least equal to the federal minimum hourly wage multiplied by 80 ** hours.
- Participating in a state or federally financed work study program during the regular school year. To qualify under this provision:
 - The student must be approved for work study at the time of application for SNAP,
 - The work study must be approved for the school term, and
 - The student must anticipate actually working during that time.

Student eligibility begins with the month in which the school term begins or the month that work study is approved, whichever is later. It continues until the end of the month in which the school term ends. Student eligibility does not continue between school terms when there is a break of a full month or longer unless the student is participating in work study during this break.

- Participating in an on-the-job training program. A student meets this exemption only during the period of time that he is being trained by the employer.

An on-the-job training program is one in which a participant is hired by a private or public employer, and while working receives job skills training. The employer pays the participant wages

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and the employer is reimbursed for providing the training, additional supervision, and sometimes, wages.

An employer-funded training program for its paid employees does not qualify as an on-the-job training program.


- Responsible for the care of a dependent SNAP household member who is:
 - Under age 6, or
 - Age 6 or over but under age 12 and adequate child care is not available to enable the student to attend class and work * 80 hours per month or ** participate in a state or federally financed work study program as described above.

Example: Father and mother are students. Their three-year-old child is in day care from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Only one parent can be deemed responsible for the care of the dependent child and therefore meet this condition. The other parent would be an ineligible student unless he meets another student eligibility condition.

Example: Household consists of father, mother, and two children under the age of 6. Father is a student and mother provides care for the children. Father provides care for his son when his wife takes their daughter to dance lessons. The father is considered an eligible student because he provides care for one of the children who is under the age of six.

- A single parent who is a full-time student (as defined by the institution) and who is responsible for the care of a SNAP household member who is a dependent child under age 12, regardless of the availability of adequate child care.
- Assigned to or placed in an institution of higher education through one of the following employment and training programs or in compliance with the requirements of one of these programs, even if the placement was self-initiated:
 - The work program under Title IV of the Social Security Act, which is the Strategies to Empower People (STEP) Program,
 - The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2015
 - A SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) program subject to the condition that the course or program of study is:
 - Part of a career and technical education program under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 designed to be completed in not more than 4 years, or

Note: A student may meet the student eligibility condition by being enrolled in a SNAP E&T program course of study as described in the bullet above without being a participant in a SNAP E&T program.

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- Limited to remedial courses, basic education, literacy, or English as a second language, or
 - A program offered by a contracted SNAP E&T provider. These providers are identified on the DCFS website SNAP Employment and Training page under the Family Support tab.
- A program under section 236 of the Trade Act of 1974, or
 - A state or local government employment and training program.

E-262-1–SNAP PO MEAL PLANS

* If more than half of the student’s meals are provided through a meal plan by the institution as part of the institution’s normal services, the student is considered a resident of an institution. Residents of institutions are not eligible. This includes students living on or off campus who buy a meal plan from the institution when the amount of the purchased meal plan equals more than half of their meals. It does not matter if the purchase of the meal plan is required or by choice. If the student is provided more than 50 percent of their meals through the meal plan regardless if the meals are eaten or not, they are not eligible for participation in SNAP. Eleven or more meals per week is considered more than 50 percent of meals per week. **

E-263-SNAP - PO INELIGIBLE STUDENTS

A student who is enrolled in an institution of higher education who does not meet any of the student eligibility conditions is considered a member of the SNAP household only for the purpose of defining a household (see [C-120-SNAP](#)). Income and resources available to the ineligible student are not counted in determining eligibility for the remaining SNAP household members.

Exception: Child support payments received by an ineligible student for a child included in the SNAP household are considered unearned income for the child.


Cash payments from the ineligible student to the SNAP household are considered income for the SNAP household.

If the household shares deductible expenses with the ineligible student, deduct as a household expense only the amount actually paid or contributed by the SNAP household.

If the payment/contribution cannot be differentiated, prorate the expense and only deduct the SNAP household’s share.

E-264-SNAP - PO WORK REGISTRATION

All students are exempt from work registration during the semester and regular school vacations as long as enrollment status continues. The student must be enrolled at least half-time.

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Being exempt from SNAP work registration requirements has no effect on student eligibility. An individual who is enrolled in an institution of higher education must still meet one of the student eligibility conditions.


Example: Client receives UCB and is enrolled in an institution of higher education. The individual still needs to meet one of the student eligibility conditions to be eligible to receive SNAP benefits. Receipt of UCB is not one of the student eligibility conditions.

An individual who is enrolled at least half-time in a school (including high school) or training program that is not considered an institution of higher education is still considered a student. An individual enrolled at least half-time in a training program is also considered a student. This also includes an alien who is enrolled in a training program with the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). A student is exempt from work registration requirements and must have a work registration ***** * of an **** Eligible Student.

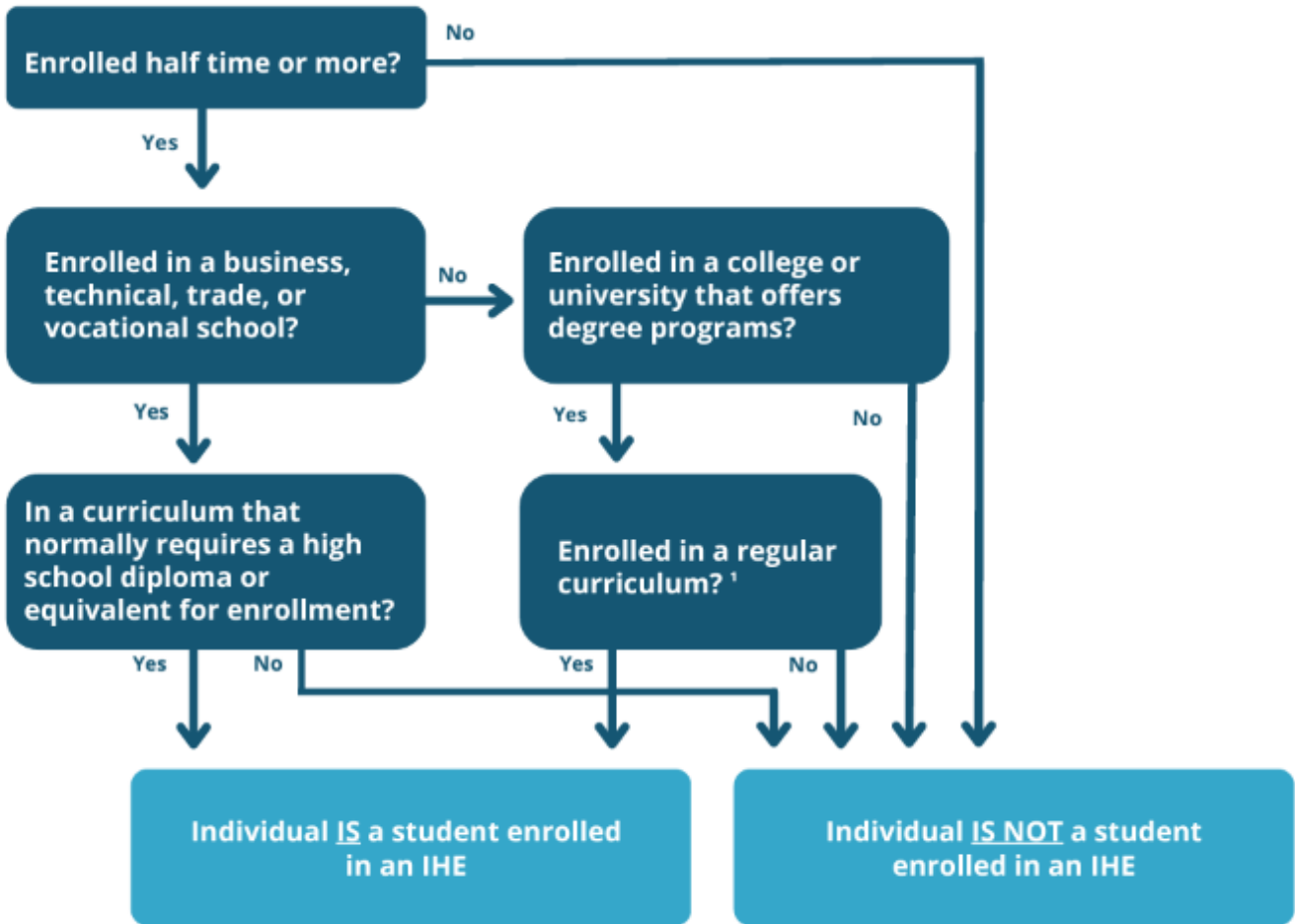
II. PROCEDURES

*** E-261-SNAP - PR STUDENTS**

To determine whether an individual is enrolled in an institution of higher education (IHE) for SNAP eligibility purposes use the chart below. ******

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How to determine whether an individual is enrolled in an institution of higher education (IHE) for SNAP eligibility purposes:



* LITE will determine if the student is an eligible student or an ineligible student for Work Registration and Student Status based on the responses to questions during data collection. **

*** E-262-1-SNAP – PR MEAL PLANS**

If a student’s meal plan provides more than 50 percent of his/her meals, he/she is not eligible for participation in the SNAP. The worker must discuss with the student the number of meals the student’s meal plan provides and determine whether the number of allotted meals exceed 50 percent of 21 meals total per week.

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Example: A student reports that they will receive breakfast and lunch 5 days per week through their meal plan. This is equivalent to 10 meals per week. Because the student will receive only two of the three daily meals through the meal plan 5 days per week, the student is not considered a resident of an institution. The 10 meals per week is less half of 21 total meals per week.

Example: A student reports that they will receive breakfast, lunch, and dinner 5 days per week through their meal plan. This is equivalent to 15 meals per week. The student will receive three daily meals through the meal plan 5 days per week. The student is considered a resident of an institution because the student will receive 15 meals per week, which is more than half of 21 total meals per week.

E-262-SNAP – PR STUDENT ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

If a student reports attending a Louisiana Community or Technical College, use an OFS 7ST, Verification of Student Information form to verify if the college considers the student’s course of study to be a career and technical program under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006.

An individual who is an eligible student must **be included in the SNAP household **.** ***

E-263-SNAP - PR INELIGIBLE STUDENTS

An individual who is an ineligible student must *** be excluded from the SNAP household **.** ***

III. FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS

OFS 7ST [Form](#) / [Instructions](#) Verification of Student Information

IV. REFERENCES

[7 CFR 273.5](#)

[LAC 67:III.Chapter 19 Subchapter E.](#)