



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

July 1, 2023

### Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Manual - Volume V

#### Transmittal #33

This transmittal contains updates that remove the temporary SNAP flexibilities allowed under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). The temporary flexibilities expired due to the Federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) ending on May 11, 2023.

The provisions of this transmittal are effective on July 1, 2023 for all SNAP applications filed and actions taken on cases on or after July 1, 2023.

The transmittal is available at:

<https://www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/snap/manual.cgi>

Changes are noted for the following sections:

---

Chapter	Significant Changes
Part VII Pages 5-6	The student exemptions were updated to remove the temporary exemption for having an expected family contribution of zero in the current academic year and to revert the work study exemption back to “participating in a state or federally financed work-study program during the regular school year” instead of “being eligible to participate in a state or federally financed work-study program during the regular school year.”
Part XV Appendix I Pages 1	The list of localities exempt from the work requirement effective July 1, 2023 was added due to the statewide exemption phasing out and coming to end when PHE ended on May 11, 2023.

---

Please direct any questions about this transmittal to practice program consultants or Michele Thomas at [michele.thomas@dss.virginia.gov](mailto:michele.thomas@dss.virginia.gov) or at (804) 726-7866.

---

Dr. Danny TK Avula  
Commissioner

Attachment



E. STUDENTS (7 CFR 273.5)

1. Definition of a Student

For the purposes of this chapter, the term student refers to a person who is enrolled at least halftime in an institution of higher education. The term student will refer to a person who is:

- a. is enrolled in a business, technical, trade, or vocational school that normally requires a high school diploma or equivalency certificate for enrollment; or,
- b. is enrolled in a regular curriculum at a college or university that offers degree programs, regardless of whether a high school diploma is required.

Once a student enrolls in an institution of higher education, the enrollment will continue through all normal periods of class attendance, vacation, and recess unless the student graduates, is suspended or expelled, drops out, or does not intend to register for the next normal school term (excluding summer school).

Enrollment begins on the first day of the school term of the institution of higher education.

2. Student Exemptions (7 CFR 273.5(b))

To be eligible for SNAP benefits, students, as identified above, must meet special criteria listed below. The resources of students who are not eligible are not considered in determining the eligibility or benefit level of other household members. See Part XI.G for evaluating the income of ineligible students.

An eligible student must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- a. Be 17 years of age or younger or, age 50 or older;
- b. Be mentally or physically unfit;
- c. Be employed for an average of 20 hours per week or 80 hours per month and be paid for such employment, including hours worked during school breaks that do not exceed one month;
- d. Be employed in a self-employed business for an average 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 is age six through age eleven where the local agency has determined that adequate child care is not available to enable the student to both attend class and satisfy the 20 hour per week work requirement or participate in work study;

- h. Be a full-time student and a single parent or caretaker who is responsible for the care of a dependent household member who is under age 12;
- i. Be receiving benefits from the TANF Program;
- j. Be participating in a work incentive program under Title IV of the Social Security Act, i.e. Virginia Initiative for Education and Work (VIEW) Program;
- k. Be participating in an on-the-job training program; or,
- l. Be assigned to or placed in an institution of higher education through:
  - 1) Programs under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA);
  - 2) SNAP Employment and Training (SNAPET);
  - 3) Part of a career and technical education program as allowed by section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 provided the program or course of study is:
    - i. Designed to be completed in four years or less; or
    - ii. Limited to remedial courses, literacy, adult education, or English as a second language.Programs such as Fast Forward, Great Expectations or the Chancellors Merit programs operated through the Virginia Community College system will meet the career and technical education goals to enhance participants' employability. Students must verify enrollment in the program.
  - 4) A program under Section 236 of the Trade Act; or,
  - 5) An employment and training program operated by state or local governments where one or more of the program's components are comparable to SNAPET components.

Students paid or subsidized for in-class hours are not considered employed during that time so such class attendance would not make a student eligible under the minimum 20 hour per week work requirement. In addition, the exemption for on-the-job training is valid only for the period the person is being trained by the employer.

In evaluating a student's eligibility based on the work-study provision, note that the student must be approved for work-study at the time of the application for SNAP benefits. In addition, the work-study must be approved for the school term. This exemption will begin either the month the school term starts or the month the work-study is approved, whichever is later. The student's exemption may not continue beyond the month the school term ends or when it becomes known that a work-study assignment has been refused nor, is the exemption continued between terms when there is a break of a full month or more, unless the student is participating in work-study during the break.

Localities Whose Residents Are Exempted from the Work Requirement\*

<b>May 2016- April 2017</b>	<b>May 2016- April 2017</b>	<b>May 2017- April 2018</b>	<b>May 2018 March 2020</b>	<b>May 2018- March 2020</b>
Accomack	Prince Edward	Galax	Accomack	Pittsylvania
Alleghany/	Prince George	Grayson	Alleghany/	Portsmouth
Covington	Pulaski	Greensville/	Covington	Prince Edward
Bland	Rappahannock	Emporia	Bath	Prince George
Bristol	Richmond County	Halifax	Bland	Pulaski
Brunswick	Russell	Hampton	Bristol	Richmond County
Buchanan	Scott	Henry/	Brunswick	Russell
Buckingham	Smyth	Martinsville	Buchanan	Scott
Carroll	Southampton	Hopewell	Buckingham	Smyth
Charles City	Surry	Lancaster	Carroll	Surry
Charlotte	Sussex	Lee	Charles City	Sussex
Craig	Tazewell	Lunenburg	Charlotte	Tazewell
Cumberland	Washington	Mecklenburg	Craig	Washington
Danville	Williamsburg	Northampton	Cumberland	Westmoreland
Dickenson	Wise	Northumberland	Danville	Williamsburg
Franklin City	Wythe	Norton	Dickenson	Wise
Galax		Page	Dinwiddie	Wythe
Grayson		Patrick	Franklin City	
Greensville/	<b>May 2017- April 2018</b>	Petersburg	Galax	<b>April 2020- June 2023</b>
Emporia		Pittsylvania	Grayson	
Halifax		Portsmouth	Greensville/	
Hampton	Accomack	Prince Edward	Emporia	Statewide
Henry/	Alleghany/	Prince George	Halifax	Exemption
Martinsville	Covington	Pulaski	Hampton	
Hopewell	Bath	Richmond County	Henry/	<b>July 2023 - June 2024</b>
Lancaster	Bland	Russell	Martinsville	
Lee	Bristol	Scott	Highland	
Lunenburg	Brunswick	Smyth	Hopewell	<b>Brunswick</b>
Mecklenburg	Buchanan	Surry	Lancaster	<b>Buchanan</b>
Northampton	Buckingham	Sussex	Lee	<b>Danville</b>
Northumberland	Carroll	Tazewell	Lunenburg	<b>Dinwiddie</b>
Norton	Charles City	Washington	Mecklenburg	<b>Franklin City</b>
Page	Charlotte	Westmoreland	Northampton	<b>Greensville/</b>
Patrick	Craig	Williamsburg	Northumberland	<b>Emporia</b>
Petersburg	Cumberland	Wise	Norton	<b>Hopewell</b>
Pittsylvania	Danville	Wythe	Page	<b>Nottoway</b>
Portsmouth	Dickenson		Patrick	<b>Petersburg</b>
	Franklin City		Petersburg	<b>Portsmouth</b>
				<b>Prince George</b>
				<b>Sussex</b>

\*The agency must track the work requirement for all household members except those persons under 18 or over age 50.

