



14 Computer Drive East
Albany, NY 12205
518.436.8757 PH
518.458.6068 FAX
HungerSolutionsNY.org

SNAP Policy Update #9 15-16'

DATE: April 11, 2016

RE: Students Enrolled in High School are Exempt from SNAP E&T and the ABAWD Time Limit Rule

This policy update highlights information provided by the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) through [GIS TA/DC026](#). This policy memo informs SNAP offices of a clarification from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regarding students enrolled in high school.

USDA has clarified with NYS that a student enrolled in high school is exempt from SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) work requirements, regardless of their age. Documentation of enrollment in high school must be provided to the SNAP office.

Under SNAP rules, an individual who is exempt from SNAP E&T work requirements is also exempt from the Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Time Limit. Therefore, a student enrolled in high school is exempt from the ABAWD Time Limit, regardless of their age. Documentation of enrollment in high school must be provided to the SNAP office.

This clarification is especially important for high school students 18 years of age and older because the ABAWD Time Limit applies to SNAP recipients who are between 18 and 49 years old. Prior to this clarification, SNAP offices were informing high school students age 18 and over that they must meet the work requirements under the ABAWD Time Limit or they would be limited to 3 months of SNAP benefits in the 36-month period starting January 1, 2016, and ending December 30, 2018.

ABAWD Time Limit Tools and Resources for Community Organizations

For more information on the ABAWD Time Limit, visit HungerSolutionsNY.org/ABAWD. Available at that site is an array of tools and resources designed for community organizations working with SNAP recipients and applicants. The site includes a [checklist tool](#) to help determine if an individual is living in a waived area, exempt, or already meeting the work requirements under the time limit rule, and includes action steps for clients.

Links:

- [GIS TA/DC026](#) – SNAP E&T/ABAWD Exemption for Students Enrolled in High School
- Visit HungerSolutionsNY.org/ABAWD for an array of tools and resources including a checklist, template medical statement, webinar, articles and much more with additional resources being added.

Help for Your Clients

There are Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP) Coordinators in many communities across NYS. NOEP Coordinators are available to help potentially eligible individuals and families apply for SNAP benefits by:

- conducting confidential pre-screenings to see if a family may be eligible for SNAP,
- assisting with completing the application, including the online version,
- answering any questions, and
- working with current recipients around recertification or other issues with their SNAP case.

NOEP Coordinators can also come to your community site to help your clients.

To find out if there is a NOEP Coordinator in your community, go to: <http://www.foodhelpny.org>.

Visit <http://otda.ny.gov/workingfamilies/dss.asp> for a listing of SNAP offices and contact information outside of NYC or call 1-800-342-3009.

Visit http://www.nyc.gov/html/hra/html/services/snap_centers.shtml for a listing of SNAP offices in New York City or call 311.

For More Information

If you have any questions about this SNAP update or SNAP in general, please contact Dawn Secor via phone at (518) 436-8757 ext. 112, or by e-mailing dawn.secor@hungersolutionsny.org.