

Frequently Asked Questions

Temporary Changes to the CalFresh Student Eligibility Rule

1. What Changed with the CalFresh Student Eligibility Rule?

The [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 \(H.R. 133\)](#) (the Act) temporarily changes the CalFresh student eligibility rule due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The changes are effective immediately and will remain in place until 30 days after the COVID-19 public health emergency is lifted.

If a student meets one of the following criteria, they are encouraged to [apply for CalFresh](#):

- The student is **eligible** for state or federally financed work study during the regular school year, as determined by the campus financial aid office, **OR**
- The student has an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of \$0, as determined by the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC).

2. How has the Work Study Exemption Changed?

- Before the Act was passed, students had to be approved for work study **and** anticipate working during the approved term(s).
- The Act temporarily expands the work study exemption to all **eligible** students. In other words, it is no longer required that a student be officially approved for work study or anticipate getting a work study job.

3. What are Acceptable Verifications for Work Study Eligibility?

Acceptable verification of work study eligibility may include, but is not limited to:

- A letter from the financial aid office confirming work study eligibility.
- A completed work study verification form confirming work study eligibility.

CDSS has created a Work Study Verification Letter and Form, reflecting these temporary changes, for suggested use by financial aid offices. A sample of both can be found on the [CalFresh Resource Center: Policy Guidance](#) webpage under Student Resources.

4. What are Acceptable Verifications for \$0 EFC?

Acceptable verification of \$0 EFC may include, but is not limited to:

- A CSAC letter, which will be sent via email to all students with a \$0 EFC for the current school year.
- A copy of the student's Student Aid Report (SAR) showing a \$0 EFC.
- A copy of the student's Financial Aid Offer letter showing a \$0 EFC.