

**EFFECTIVE**

March 1, 2011.

**Subject**

Student Status

**FAP****BEM 230B, 245**

The education plan approval for self-initiated secondary education is no longer a deferral from employment-related activities for Food Assistance Program (FAP). Clients in student status are no longer eligible to receive FAP based solely on an approved education plan. Policy is updated to reflect this change.

Bridges will continue to apply the old policy for all months prior to March 2011 regardless of when FAP eligibility is determined.

Field Operations Administration will send an L-letter giving local offices instructions and a deadline for handling those cases not processed by the mass update.

*Reason:* Michigan's FAP Employment and Training State Plan as approved by Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) no longer contains a component that allows for self-initiated education.

**BEM 230B****Education**

A student enrolled at least half time in any recognized school, training program or institution of higher education meets the employment-related activities requirement. This includes persons attending school for GED or adult high school completion.

A person enrolled in a post-secondary education program may be in student status, as defined in BEM 245, STUDENT STATUS. A person in student status must meet certain criteria in order to be eligible for FAP benefits.

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**SCHOOL  
ATTENDANCE AND  
STUDENT STATUS****BEM 245****FAP Only**

A person is in student status if he is:

- Age 18 through 49: and
- Enrolled half-time or more in a:
  - Vocational, trade, business, or technical school that normally requires a high school diploma or an equivalency certificate.
  - Regular curriculum at a college or university that offers degree programs regardless of whether a diploma is required.

In order for a person in student status to be eligible, they must meet one of the following criteria:

- Receiving FIP.
- Enrolled in an institution of higher education as a result of participation in:
  - A JTPA program.
  - A program under section 236 of the Trade Readjustment Act of 1974 (U. S. C. 2296).
  - Another state or local government employment and training program.
- Physically or mentally unfit for employment.
- Employed for at least 20 hours per week and paid for such employment.
- Self-employed for at least 20 hours per week and earning weekly income at least equivalent to the federal minimum wage multiplied by 20 hours.

- Participating in an on-the-job training program. A person is considered to be participating in an on-the-job training program only during the period of time the person is being trained by the employer.
- Participating in a state or federally-funded work study program (funded in full or in part under Title IV-C of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended) during the regular school year.

To qualify under this provision the student must be approved for work study during the school term and anticipate actually working during that time. The exemption:

- Starts the month the school term begins or the month work study is approved, whichever is later.
- Continues until the end of the month in which the school term ends, or when you become aware that the student has refused a work-study assignment.
- Remains between terms or semesters when the break is less than a full month, or the student is still participating in work study during the break.
- Providing more than half of the physical care of a group member under the age of six.
- Providing more than half of the physical care of a group member age six through eleven and the local office has determined adequate child care is not available to:
  - Enable the person to attend class and work at least 20 hours per week.
  - Participate in a state or federally-financed work study program during the regular school year.
- A single parent enrolled full-time in an institution of higher education who cares for a dependent under age 12. This includes a person who does not live with his or her spouse, who has parental control over a child who does not live with his or her natural, adoptive or stepparent.

For the care of a child under age six, consider the student to be providing physical care as long as he or she claims primary

responsibility for such care, even though another adult may be in the FAP group.

When determining the availability of adequate child care for a child six through 11, another person in the home, over 18, need not be a FAP

group member to provide care.

The person remains in student status while attending classes regularly. Student status continues during official school vacations and periods of extended illness. Student status does not continue if the student is suspended, expelled, drops out, or does not intend to register for the next school term (excluding summer term).

**MANUAL  
MAINTENANCE  
INSTRUCTIONS**