

End of CalFresh Temporary Student Exemptions FAQ

Updated: 2/23/2023

1. What are the temporary student exemptions for CalFresh?

The temporary student exemptions were allowed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The temporary student exemptions expand CalFresh eligibility to two groups of college students:

- Students eligible for work study; and
- Students with an Expected Family Contribution of zero dollars for financial aid.

2. Why are the temporary student exemptions ending?

The temporary student exemptions are ending because the Federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency declaration is ending May 11, 2023. California was only allowed to provide these temporary student exemptions to students while the Federal Public Health Emergency declaration was in place.

3. Who is affected by the end of the temporary student exemptions?

Students who get CalFresh due to qualifying for one of the temporary student exemptions will be ineligible for CalFresh at their next recertification beginning July 1, 2023 if they do not meet one of the permanent student exemptions.

4. What are the permanent student exemptions? The permanent student exemptions are included below:

- Approved for work study and anticipating work
- Not half-time or more due to taking non-credit courses
- TANF-funded Cal Grant A or B
- Working 20 hours/week or a total of 80 hours/month
- Disabled or physically or mentally unable to work
- Does not expect to be enrolled next term
- Responsible for the care of a dependent under age 6
- Responsible for the care of a dependent under 12 without adequate childcare
- Single parent responsible for the care of a dependent under 12
- Receiving CalWORKs
- Part of a Local Program that Increases Employability
- Is age 17 or younger or age 50 or older
- Participating in an on-the-job training program

For a more robust list, please review the CalFresh Student Exemption Screening Form ([CF 6177](#)).

End of CalFresh Temporary Student Exemptions FAQ

Updated: 2/23/2023

5. What do these students have to do when the temporary student exemptions end?

Students already approved for CalFresh under one of the temporary student exemptions do not need to do anything to keep their benefits until their next recertification beginning July 1, 2023. At their next recertification, students will need to meet the criteria for one of the permanent student exemptions, mentioned in question 4 above. If a student meets the additional criteria, they may still be eligible for CalFresh.

6. What can students newly applying for CalFresh expect once the temporary student exemptions end?

Counties may continue to apply the two temporary student exemptions to students newly applying for CalFresh through June 9, 2023. Beginning June 10, 2023, students newly applying for CalFresh will need to show whether they meet one of the permanent student exemptions, mentioned in question 4 above.

7. Where can I find additional food resources in my community?

You can get free food from your local food bank. There are food banks throughout California that give free food to people in their communities. To connect to a food bank, please visit [California Food Banks](#). Your college may also have a Basic Needs Center established that can connect you to needed resources.