

Mass Workforce Issuance

Workforce Issuance No. 10-59

Policy Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
Workforce Investment Board Chairs
Workforce Investment Board Directors
Title I Administrators
Career Center Directors
Title I Fiscal Officers
DCS Regional Managers

cc: WIA State Partners

From: Michael Taylor, Director
Department of Workforce Development

Date: June 24, 2010

Subject: **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Eligibility for Community College Students**

Purpose: To notify Local Workforce Investment Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other local workforce investment partners of newly revised policy standards for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility for certain community college students.

Background: SNAP (formerly known as the Food Stamp Program) provides nutritional assistance to low-income families and individuals in order to promote and support good health for the nation's populace.

On June 1, 2010, the MA Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) issued Field Operations Memo 2010-28, SNAP Eligibility for Certain Community College Students (Attachment A). The Field Operations Memo instructs DTA staff on a change of policy with regard to determining eligibility for SNAP benefits for low-income community college students enrolled in a career or technical education program under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-270).

Under the Act, commonly referred to as Perkins IV, a student identified by the community college or a student whom the community college otherwise certifies as enrolled in a career or technical education program that leads directly to employment meets the requirements of an eligible community college student under SNAP regulations at 106 CMR 362.410(F)(4).

In conjunction with the revised policy guidance described in the Memo, DTA case managers are instructed to determine if a low-income community college student applying for assistance is:

- attending the community college at least half-time; and
- pursuing a career or technical education program under Perkins IV that will lead to employment *as verified by the college*.

If the student meets both of the above eligibility criteria, no other student eligibility factor for SNAP [as described at 106 CMR 362.410 (see Attachment A)] must be met in order for the student to be determined eligible to receive nutritional assistance.

All SNAP eligibility determinations must be made by DTA staff in accordance with the guidance provided in Memo 2010-28.

Inquiries: All inquiries should be directed to the Department of Transitional Assistance.