

Urgent Bulletin

Arizona Department of Economic Security
Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System

Ending the Temporary NA Student Exemption

05/11/2023

Program Impact: NA

This Urgent Bulletin is being issued to inform staff the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) will expire at the end of the day on 05/11/2023. Due to the ending of the PHE, the temporary Nutrition Assistance (NA) Student Eligibility Exemption will no longer be applicable for students.

The Pandemic Student (PS) Exemption Reason Code was created in response to the PHE which expanded the eligibility for students enrolled at least half-time in an institution of higher education (IHE) and who met one of the following conditions:

- Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of \$0 for the current academic school year.
- Determined eligible but not actively participating in a work study program during the current academic school year.

Participants can continue to receive the PS Exemption Reason as follows:

- **New Applications:**

The temporary student exemption can no longer be applied when a new application is filed on or after the 30th calendar day following the end of the PHE.

For example, the PHE ends 05/11/2023, the temporary student exemption can continue to be applied to new applications filed on or before 06/09/2023. When eligible, the student can continue to receive the exemption until the next renewal. Any new applications submitted 06/10/2023 or later are screened for a non-temporary NA student exemption.

When a budgetary unit is closed for failure to submit a renewal application (OR Denial Closure Reason Code) for the renewal period beginning 06/01/2023 and then submits an application within the 30 days after the end of the prior approval period, the temporary student exemption can continue to be applied to the student.

For example, the PHE ends 05/11/2023, the budgetary unit was closed effective 05/31/2023 for failure to renew benefits for the renewal approval period beginning 06/01/2023. The budgetary unit then submits an application on 06/20/2023, the temporary student exemption can continue to be applied to the student until the next renewal.

Ineligibility is based on the application filing date, not the processing date.

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- **Renewal Applications**

The temporary student exemption can no longer be applied when the budgetary unit's renewal approval period begins at least 30 calendar days after the end of the PHE.

For example, the PHE ends 05/11/2023, the temporary student exemption can continue to be applied to budgetary units with a renewal approval period beginning 06/01/2023. When eligible, the student can continue to receive the exemption until the next renewal. Budgetary units with a renewal approval period beginning 07/01/2023 or later are screened for a non-temporary NA student exemption.

Ineligibility is based on the date the budgetary unit applies for renewal, not the processing date.

- **Mid Approval Contact (MAC) Changes**

Adult students are not required to report changes in their student status on their MAC form. When the budgetary unit reports that a student is no longer eligible for the temporary student exemption after the end of the PHE, the agency must act on the reported change and the student is screened for a non-temporary NA student exemption.

When the budgetary unit does not report the change, the student would be eligible for the exemption until their next renewal.

For example, the PHE ends 05/11/2023 and the budgetary unit reports the student no longer meets the temporary student exemption, they are screened for a non-temporary NA student exemption. When the student is not eligible for an exemption, they are determined not eligible for NA benefits.

The PS Exemption Reason Code will no longer be applicable for students who met either of the temporary conditions based on the application types listed above. FAA Systems has incorporated the application restrictions into AZTECS. When the PS Exemption Reason Code is used outside its perimeters, the system will display an ERROR message on SSDO indicating the code is no longer valid for the student. The student will need to be screened for a non-temporary exemption.

For more information on whether an adult student is eligible to participate in the NA program, see the CNAP Manual reference at [FAA3.D01](#) titled Adult Student Eligibility for NA.

Please contact the FAA Policy Support Team by phone at (602) 774-5523 or by e-mail at FAAPolicyMgmt@azdes.gov with any questions or concerns regarding this broadcast.

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