



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Transitional Assistance
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Field Operations Memo 2007- 44
August 30, 2007

To: Transitional Assistance Office Staff
From:  John Augeri, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations
Re: Food Stamp Program: Averaging Student Work Hours

Purpose

To be eligible for the Food Stamp Program, a student beyond the secondary level must work a minimum of 20 hours per week to meet one of the student eligibility requirements. (See 106 CMR 362.410 (A).) Now, under an approved waiver, the Department can *average* the number of hours a student works during the month (based on the last four pay stubs) to calculate the number of hours worked per week. With averaging, a student who otherwise meets the food stamp work requirement on a monthly basis may adjust work hours to accommodate the school workload without risking loss of food provided by the Food Stamp Program.

Averaging Student Work Hours

Effective September 4, 2007 with State Letter 1327, the Department may average the number of hours a student works per month (based on the last four pay stubs) to determine the number of hours worked per week.

For example, a college student's last four pay stubs show that she worked 25 hours the first week, 15 hours the second, 20 hours the third and 20 hours the fourth week. She meets the student eligibility requirement because she averaged 20 hours of work per week. Enter the wage information for these weeks in BEACON using established procedures.

Questions

If you have any questions, please have your Hotline designee call the Policy Hotline at 617-348-8478.
