

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):**
2. **Type of request:** Initial
3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR § 273.5(b)(5) and (6)
4. **State:** Vermont
5. **Region:** Northeast
6. **Regulatory requirements:**

Federal regulations at 7 CFR § 273.5(b)(5) require that in order to be eligible a student must:

Be employed for a minimum of 20 hours per week and be paid for such employment or, if self-employed, be employed for a minimum of 20 hours per week and receiving weekly earnings at least equal to the Federal minimum wage multiplied by 20 hours. The State agency may choose to determine compliance with this requirement by calculating whether the student worked an average of 20 hours per week over the period of a month, quarter, trimester or semester. State agencies may choose to exclude hours accrued during academic breaks that do not exceed one month. A State agency that chooses to average student work hours must specify this choice and specify the time period over which the work hours will be averaged in its State plan of operation;

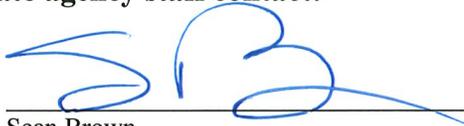
Federal regulations at 7 CFR § 273.5(b)(6) require that in order to be eligible a student must:

Be participating in a State or federally financed work study program during the regular school year.

7. **Proposed alternative procedures:** Vermont requests a waiver of the eligible student requirements during the COVID-19 outbreak. Vermont would like to add displaced students into existing households or into their own households as adults that are exempt from ABAWD time limits. Students will be able to call and report that they have been displaced from their school, and we can add them to an existing household with permission of the head of household, or we would direct them to apply for their own household. The benefit worker would advise the customer that they need to report when they return to school.
8. **Justification for request:** Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, most students are being displaced due to facility closure. There is also a lack of work due to businesses in the area closing for safety measures especially businesses that would hire temporary employees. This waiver will ensure that the students who would have been eligible but for displacement due to COVID-19 will continue to receive

necessary food assistance. In addition, they will have their countable months available for once they have graduated while they job hunt.

9. **Caseload information, including percent of caseload and description of population expected to be affected by this waiver:** Vermont is estimating that is could affect ~3% of the caseload.
10. **Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** This will fall on the customer only for reporting purposes, then will fall on the benefit worker to change one code in the customer's member panel. Customers will be advised to report when they return to school.
11. **Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed (please indicate if the waiver approval is needed to make system adjustments):** Vermont requests this waiver to be in effect starting immediately through May 31st, 2020.
12. **Proposed quality control review procedures:** These cases would be exempt from quality control within the months this waiver is in place.
13. **Date of request:** March 19, 2020
14. **State agency staff contact:**



Sean Brown

Title: Deputy Commissioner DCF ESD

Email for transmission of response: sean.brown@vermont.gov

15. **Regional Office contact person (to be completed by FNS regional office):**