



Pennsylvania
Department of Human Services

DATE: October 8, 2026

OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM #26-10-02

SUBJECT: Changes to Vocational Education for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment and Training (E&T) Participants

TO: Executive Directors

FROM: Robert Hixson, Director
Bureau of Operations

PURPOSE

To inform County Assistance Offices (CAOs) of changes to vocational education (voc-ed) time limit policy for SNAP E&T participants.

SUMMARY AND CHANGE

Old Policy	New Policy
SNAP E&T participants can participate in certain voc-ed activities for no more than 24 months in a lifetime, with the possibility of six-month extensions.	SNAP E&T participants may now participate in voc-ed activities without a time limit .

NOTE: There is no change to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Road to Economic Self-Sufficiency through Employment and Training (RESET) participants. See [Cash Assistance Handbook 135.2](#) for more information relating to RESET.

BACKGROUND

SNAP E&T participants enrolled in eligible voc-ed activity codes: 14, 15, 16, 24, 27, 84, 87, and 88 are limited to 24 months of voc-ed participation in a lifetime with the option of additional six-month extensions thereafter.

DISCUSSION

Effective immediately, SNAP E&T participants, including SNAP-only and Family Works SNAP, may participate in eligible voc-ed activities **with no time limit**.

NOTE: Family Works only participants are not subject to voc-ed time limits.

When referring a participant to a SNAP E&T program, the CAO no longer needs to assess the amount of voc-ed time a SNAP E&T participant previously used, complete the Vocational Education Extension Addendum, and/or request voc-ed extension approvals for participants that have used more than 24 months of voc-ed.

The following types of voc-ed programs continue to be ineligible for SNAP E&T support:

- Postgraduate programs, such as master's degree programs; and
- Programs that are designed to take more than four years to complete.

In addition, second and subsequent training policy (see: [SNAP Handbook 535.12](#)) continues to apply to both SNAP E&T and TANF E&T participants.

NEXT STEPS

1. Share and review this Memorandum with appropriate staff.
2. Direct questions on this Memorandum to your Area Manager.