

CALWORKS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is education limited to a 12-month period?

No. Students can pursue education through the county's welfare to work program up to their 5-year lifetime limit on aid. Non-SIPs can count education as a core requirement for 12 months; beyond that, they must work or do another approved work activity for 20 hrs/week, and count education as a non-core activity for 12 hrs/week.

Can we write Ed Plans for educational goals that go beyond 5 years?

Generally no. The County will not look favorably at educational goals that extend beyond the 5-year lifetime limit. A better approach is for students to complete shorter-term education goals under welfare-to-work. After they are off aid, they can continue their education on their own. Elementary and secondary education are two programs that can extend beyond the 5-year limit.

Can we write Ed Plans for BA/BS degrees?

Generally, no, with two exceptions. 1) Students who want to teach at the elementary or secondary level can pursue the appropriate transfer programs, and are not restricted by the 5-year lifetime limit. 2) SIPs who are very close to transfer at the point they start on cash aid, and have a proven track record of academic success may possibly be an exception – contact the District CalWORKs Liaison Counselor/Coordinator for more information.

Can we still include GE transfer courses in the Ed Plan?

No, only if the course is required for the student's certificate or degree, or if the student needs elective units to meet the 60 unit degree requirement.

What do we need to know about core and non-core requirements for non-SIPs?

Consider that the student will have to work for 20 hours/week while they attend school for all but a 12-month period. Routinely refer students to Job Services for work-study and encourage enrollment in Work Experience: these activities count towards the 20-hr/wk-work requirement. During the 12-month period, education counts towards the 20 hours/week. Consider maximizing class hours during this time period and scheduling the 12 months strategically within the Educational Plan.

Are students with LD exempt from the 32-hr/week requirement?

No. If their course load is reduced, their work obligation will increase to meet the 32-hour weekly requirement.