

Table 2: State-by-State CCDF Rules and Guidelines¹

State	Qualify on the basis of education without additional work requirements?	Education/ Training Activity	Program Type Allowed			Time Limits	Academic Progress	Study Time	Travel Time
			Associate	Bachelor's	Advanced				
Alabama	yes	full-time enrollment; or combination of work and education for a min 15 hours							
Alaska	yes	not specified ²	state specifies programs that lead to certificate, diploma or degree but does not specify by degree program					one hour per credit hour each week for study time	up to one hour from child care to activity and one hour from activity to child care ³

¹ A note on research sources: All state student eligibility rules were gathered from the 2022-24 CCDF State Plans, unless noted otherwise. If you are interested in more information about a specific source, feel free to contact the report authors.

² Alaska's manual specifies that the monthly maximum allowable coverage for educational activities is a full time month regardless of education activities. Study time was also found in [the manual](#).

³ More time (up to 1.5 hours) may be allowed for parents who travel more than 30 miles to their activity or utilizes public transportation.

Arizona	no; monthly average of 20 hours per week		state specifies college or trade/vocational activities, but does not specify degree program ⁴				maintain “satisfactory progress and remain in good standing with educational institution”		
Arkansas	yes	full-time; or a combination of part-time education and work	yes	yes				study time considered towards hours of child care assistance ⁵	
California	yes	not specified	yes	yes	yes	6 years from initiation or 24 semester units after attainment of Bachelor’s degree		study time included as applicable	travel time included as applicable

⁴ Education and training, including college or trade/vocational activities, are allowed as long as the parent is working a monthly average of 20 hours a week.

⁵ If a student participates in study groups, lab experience, outside class study or homework, these hours may be included in the number of child care assistance; parents are authorized up to 50 hours of child care assistance per week.

Colorado	yes	no min hour requirement	yes	yes		min of 2 years and max of 4 years			
Connecticut	yes	not specified	state specifies “technical/vocational secondary school and higher education”, but does not specify by degree program						
Delaware	yes	not specified	state specifies postsecondary education leading to a degree or certification, but does not specify by degree program ⁶						
D.C.	yes	20 hours per week ⁷	yes	yes		non-degree programs limited to 2 years			

⁶ Countable education includes postsecondary education leading to a degree or certification. A parent must also be participating in a SNAP E&T program or TANF E&T program.

⁷ A student attending 20 hours per week is eligible. Additionally, a student can be enrolled in a full-time undergraduate program (min 12 credit hours); or enrolled in a part-time undergraduate program and employed to meet the hour requirement. When determining participation hours, one credit hour equals one hour countable towards the requirement.

Florida	yes	20 hours or more per week ⁸	yes ⁹	yes				study hours are included towards education/training hours	consideration is given for reasonable travel time
Georgia	yes	minimum of 24 hours per week ¹⁰	yes ¹¹	yes				each credit hour equates to 2 hours of study time	
Hawaii	yes	no min hour requirement	states specifies an education program by “an institution, agency or business for the purpose of development of skill or academic study”, but does not specify by degree program						travel time included in hourly range of need for care ¹²
Idaho	yes	not specified	yes	yes ¹³		48 months			12 hours travel time per month

⁸ Two-parent families must complete at least 40 hours a week. The hours of child care depend on a parent’s participation in their educational activities. Additionally, some TANF recipients may not be subject to the 20 hour requirement.

⁹ Associate degrees allowed include Associate of Arts and Associate of Science; Bachelor degrees allowed include Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science programs.

¹⁰ Parents 21 years or older must meet a weekly 24-hour requirement with a combination of employment or full time or part time education. Parents under 20 years of age are not subject to the 24-hour requirement. For more information, the state manual is also a great resource: https://caps.decal.ga.gov/assets/downloads/CAPS/0-CAPS_Policy-Manual.pdf

¹¹ The associate and bachelor’s degree programs must be part of a HOPE eligible institution.

¹² Travel time is included when determining the hourly range of need for care; they specify 86 or more hours per month for full time care or 1-85 hours per month for part time care.

¹³ To receive child care benefits for advanced degrees, they must be paired with a qualifying activity.

Illinois	yes	not specified ¹⁴	yes	yes				up to one hour of study time per week for each classroom hour/course credit	must be reasonably related to the education/training activity
Indiana	yes	no min hour requirement	state specifies general education degree programs, vocational education, and postsecondary training, but does specify by degree program						travel time can be included
Iowa	yes	full-time; or combination of work and education for 28 hours per week	state specifies participating in academic or vocational training			24 month lifetime limit ¹⁵			travel time between the child care facility and place of employment

¹⁴ There is no minimum hour requirement for work, which could also apply to the education component. State plan does not specify.

¹⁵ When determining the time limit, a fiscal month will be used rather than a calendar month, so the time limit begins at the start of classes. High School education, GED, or ESL does not count towards the time limit.

Kansas	no; min of 15 hours per week		yes ¹⁶	yes		24 month lifetime limit	"maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA"	study time and sleep time taken into consideration	travel time taken into consideration
Kentucky	yes	full time or part-time and meeting 20 hours a week ¹⁷	state specifies vocational or technical school and colleges and universities, but does not specify by degree program						travel not included in work, education, or job training hours
Louisiana	yes	attending school for a 20 hours per week; or combined with work	state specifies degree or certificates "meant to promote job skills and employability", but does not specify by degree program						up to 5 hours of travel per week
Maine	yes	not specified	yes	yes				2 hours of study time per credit hour per week	travel time from child care to class is accepted

¹⁶ The occupation must be listed in the Occupational Outlook Handbook and must be skill specific or create greater earning potential. Occupations that do not must receive an approval.

¹⁷ The 20-hour requirement can be a result of education and job training with a combination of work hours. Work may include unpaid work in regard to a higher education activity or work-study. For two-parent households, a minimum of 40 hours per week (one of those parents not working less than 5 hours).

Maryland	yes	no min hour requirement	yes	yes				one hour of study time per credit	one hour of travel time from child care to activity and another hour back, unless documentation proves more than two hours needed
Massachusetts	yes	not specified ¹⁸	yes	yes					up to 5 hours of travel time per week ¹⁹
Michigan	yes	not specified ²⁰	state specifies postsecondary education, but does not specify by degree program					up to one hour of study/tutor time for each hour of class or lab time	10 hours of travel time per two-week pay period ²¹

¹⁸ Full-time will be considered as 12 credit hours or more; part-time will be considered as 12 credit hours or less and the credit hours will be multiplied by 2.5 to establish child care needs. Similarly, participating for 30 or more hours per week in an activity is considered a full-time service need, whereas participating for at least 20 hours is considered a part-time service need. Work-study required practical and clinical experiences (including student teaching or internships) are counted as hours of employment.

¹⁹ Parents must be meeting a minimum of 20 hours requirement and be the one to take the child to and from child care for travel time to qualify.

²⁰ Under the working component, Michigan does not require a minimum number of hours per week, which could be applicable for the education component as well. State plan is not explicit.

²¹ Additional travel time can be requested, and they also allow time for meals or breaks.

Minnesota	yes	no min hour requirement	yes ²²	yes			“maintain satisfactory progress determined by education program” (non-TANF participants)	applicable study time considered	applicable meal, break and travel time considered
Mississippi	yes	full-time	state specifies must be “accredited by the State of Mississippi or a national organization and must result in a degree or certificate leading to promotion of job skills or employability”						
Missouri	yes	no min hour participation ²³	yes	yes				up to one hour per credit hour of enrollment per week	travel time allowed

²² Non-TANF parents can pursue educational programs, including remedial or basic education or ESL and a program leading to a Bachelor’s degree. For TANF parents, they can participate in education and job training programs that are approved within their TANF Employment Plan.

²³ If a parent is enrolled full-time (12 hours or more), child care is automatically authorized for up to 23 full-time units. If a parent is attending evening classes, care will be authorized for evenings and weekends. Additionally, child care can continue if travel time prevents parents from returning to activity in a timely manner. For more information on child care hours, see state plan.

Montana	yes	full-time ²⁴	state specifies programs must be “accredited by the State of Montana and U.S. Department of Education”, but does not specify by degree programs						
Nebraska	yes	no min hour requirement	yes	yes				study time beyond scheduled hours not allowed	one hour per day, unless documentation provided
Nevada	no; but no min hour requirement	enrollment of 6 or more credit semester hours ²⁵	yes	yes					must not exceed 60 minutes each way to commute to and from activity
New Hampshire	yes	no min hour requirement	yes ²⁶	yes (TANF parents only)		2 years in a lifetime		one hour for every classroom	allowed a number of hours child care

²⁴ A single parent attending school or a training program full-time meets the activity requirements. However, a single parent attending part-time must work for a minimum of 40 hours per month. For two parents, they must work a minimum of 120 hours per month with either/or both parents working, attending school or a training program, unless they are both full-time in an education or training program.

²⁵ This only applied to parents in an accredited community college, college, or university program. Parents in “job training programs” (vocational school, GED preparation, or an employment preparation program) must meet 20 hours a week without compensation; if they receive compensation, it is considered a “working” component.

²⁶ Non-TANF parents can only pursue a degree up to an associate degree level. TANF parents who are not receiving NHEP, can pursue an associate and bachelor’s degree.

						(non-TANF parents)		hour within a week	is needed per week
New Jersey	yes	full-time ²⁷	yes	yes					
New Mexico	yes	5 hours or less per week ²⁸	state specifies “short or long term educational or training programs”, including postsecondary institutions, but does not specify degree programs					can negotiate a reasonable amount of study time	can negotiate a reasonable amount of travel time
New York	no; 17.5 hours per week ²⁹		yes	yes				child care services can be provided for study time	child care services can be provided for hours relating to pick up and drop off
North Carolina	yes	not specified				up to 20 months		adequate study time	reasonable travel time

²⁷ Parents must be enrolled full-time for a total of at least 12 credits hours (9 credit hours during the summer term) at a college, university, or other education facility.

²⁸ Parents will get reimbursed for as little as 5 hours or less per week.

²⁹ To pursue an associate or bachelor’s degree, a participant must meet the following: participate in non-subsidized employment for at least 17 ½ hours per week, demonstrate the program will lead to improved earning and demonstrate they can successfully complete the program.

			state specifies “postsecondary for up to 20 months” but does not specify degree program						
North Dakota	yes	not specified ³⁰	yes	yes					calculated by multiplying the total number of allowable education hours by 25%
Ohio	yes	not specified ³¹	state specifies “college classes, technical classes or vocational classes that are part of a course of study leading to a degree, a certificate or a license”, but does not specify degree program						not to exceed 4 hours round trip
Oklahoma	yes	no min hour requirement	yes	yes ³²					reasonable travel time allowed ³³

³⁰ Education hours are determined by multiplying the number of enrolled credit hours by 2 or actual hours of attendance when the program is not based on credit hours.

³¹ Child care may be allowable past 24 hours when need is shown through their hours of employment, training, or education.

³² Programs must qualify for federal financial aid from the U.S. Department of Education or other federal or state education funds. This applies for Non-TANF participants. TANF participants are allowed any activity approved in their TANF Work Plan.

³³ Travel time is included when calculating child care, as well as actual classroom attendance and any other activities required to maintain a course or scholarship. Additionally, for working parents, sleep time is also considered employment if the parent works nights and has an alternative care provider during work hours and needs child care to sleep during the day.

Oregon	no ; up to a combined 50 hours per week ³⁴	max of 20 hours per week	state specifies “education that leads to certificate, degree or job-related knowledge skills”, but does not specify degree program					study time, homework time, and break time is encompassed under travel time	add 25% to the total number of authorized class and work hours combined
Pennsylvania	no; must work 10 hours ³⁵	attend for 10 hours a week	yes	yes					included in the number of hours of care authorized (cannot be used to meet work requirement)
Rhode Island	yes	at least 20 hours a week ³⁶				less than one year			up to one hour per day to account for travel between activity and

³⁴ Teen parents do not have a work requirement and qualify on education alone. The parent must have been eligible for ERDC child care assistance based on their employment activity; working parents receive a max of 20 hours a week for class time. Education hours cannot exceed the approved work hour or a combined total of 50 authorized hours per week or 215 per month (20 hours of work, 20 hours of school and 10 for travel).

³⁵ All non-TANF participants must meet a total of 20 hours of work a week, however, education or a training program can qualify for 10 of those hours. TANF participant eligibility and requirements are determined by the agent or caseworker who determined their TANF benefits. This does not apply to teen parents.

³⁶ For income eligible families (below 180% of the federal poverty level), they must participate for at least 20 hours a week in training programs (including internships, on-the-job training job readiness programs) funded by the Governor's Workforce Board or state agencies as part of the coordinated program system. State plan does not mention specific postsecondary education programs. For categorical eligible families, they are authorized to receive services if they participate in the education and training component, approved by their TANF Employment Plan.

									child care location
South Carolina	yes	enrolled at least part-time and meet 15 hours per week ³⁷	yes	yes					can be included to make up the number of educational hours
South Dakota	yes	minimum of 12 semester credit hours; 80 hours a month. ³⁸	state specifies “college, university or technical institute”, but does not specify degree program					allows 10 hours of between class times	calculated at 25% of the total weekly activity hours ³⁹
Tennessee	yes	full-time and meeting at least 30 hours per week ⁴⁰	yes	yes	yes ⁴¹			one hour of unsupervised study time for each hour of class time	

³⁷ TANF participants may not need to meet the 15-hour requirement.

³⁸ This is for non-TANF families. They can also meet this requirement by combining work and school hours for a total of at least 80 hours a month. TANF families also qualify for child care assistance but must meet requirements set by their TANF Employment Plan.

³⁹ Parents with school aged children have their supplemental hours calculated at 30% of a parent's total weekly hours (employment, training, or school) and are allowed 35 hours/month of vacation/in-service hours.

⁴⁰ If enrolled part-time, participants must also be employed and meet a combined 30 hours per week. This pertains to non-TANF child care. In two-parent households, one parent must be working for 30 hours a week, while the other attends school full-time or part-time. If both enrolled in school, one must be attending full-time. For TANF participants receiving cash assistance, any TANF-countable activity qualifies as work, but they must meet the 30-hour activity requirement.

⁴¹ Participants pursuing a graduate program may count 6 hours towards the work requirement and may add up to 2 hours of study time for a total of 8 hours towards the work requirement.

Texas	yes	at least an average of 25 hours per week ⁴²	yes	yes	yes ⁴³		“making progress toward successful completion of program determined by Board”		
Utah	no; average of 15 hours per week ⁴⁴	no min hour requirement	yes	yes		24 months or the last 2 years of bachelor's degree		time between classes can be considered for participation hours	
Vermont	yes	no min hour requirement ⁴⁵	yes	yes				one hour of child care per school credit	up to 2 hours of travel time per day

⁴² The hour requirements could be in combination of work, job training, or educational activities for a one-parent household and 50 hours per week for a two-parent household. Each credit hour course counts as 3 hours of activity per week. State plan states this is for at-risk and former Choices child care.

⁴³ Texas considers education to be defined to include a postsecondary degree from an institution of higher education. Verified with a local state office that this includes up to a graduate degree.

⁴⁴ In two-parent households, one parent must work an average of 15 hours per week, while the other works an average of 30 hours a week.

⁴⁵ Each class credit is worth one hour of child care. A participant can participate in an education program that will most likely lead to employment within one year of program completion.

Virginia	yes	no min hour requirement	yes	yes ⁴⁶			make “satisfactory progress”		
Washington	yes	full-time ⁴⁷	yes					study time may be included in approved hours for education programs	travel time may be included in approved hours for education programs
West Virginia	yes	full-time or combined part-time school and work for 20 hours a week	state specifies “colleges and universities”, but does not specify degree program				“satisfactory progress as verified by at least a 2.0 grade average”		not considered
Wisconsin	no; 20 hours per month ⁴⁸					up to 2 years		study time included for TANF participants	travel time included

⁴⁶ Education activities must correlate to a participant’s employment goals. A full day of care up to 12 hours may be authorized for each class day for parents.

⁴⁷ Non-TANF or non-BFET families must be enrolled full-time in a community college, technical college, or tribal college. Enrolled in university programs not allowed. Part-time enrollment is acceptable for vocational education, adult basic education, and ESL, but must be in combination with a minimum of 20 hours per week or a minimum of 16 hours per week in state or federal work-study.

⁴⁸ The job training component allows participants to attend technical college or other courses of study. The state plan does mention any other postsecondary institutions as an allowable activity. Participation in Wisconsin’s W-2 TANF program or the FoodShare Employment and Training program is also allowed.

Wyoming	not specified	not specified ⁴⁹	yes	yes ⁵⁰					
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⁴⁹ Information taken from the child care subsidy manual, as a state plan could not be identified. Manual does not include information on activity requirements.

<https://dfs.wyo.gov/about/policy-manuals/child-care-subsidy-policy-manual/>

⁵⁰ For a parent to pursue a postsecondary degree, they cannot exceed the following time limitations: 3 years for an associate degree and 6 years for a baccalaureate degree (only applies when they were not working an average of less than 30 hours per week while attending class). If employed more than 30 hours per week, the time limit extends to 5 years for an associate and 8 years for a baccalaureate degree.