

**Q.** A TAFDC recipient came to our office this month to report that her son turned 18 in May. She also told me that, although he had completed high school, he failed to pass the MCAS Exam and intends to retake the test. In preparation for retaking the exam, her son plans to enroll in an MCAS review course over the summer months. This dependent is an only child. Is this AU still eligible for TAFDC?

**A.** Yes. Although this dependent child has turned 18 and has completed his high school course work, he may remain a part of the TAFDC AU for a period of time not to exceed six months.

A dependent child age 18 who has received a Certificate of Completion or can otherwise demonstrate that he or she has successfully completed the high school course work, and who is pursuing an MCAS remedial program will continue to be eligible until turning 19, taking the MCAS retest or for six months, whichever is soonest. The six-month period starts the month following the successful completion of high school course work. Refer to 106 CMR 203.575 for more information on dependent children who have turned 18.

**Q.** I have a TAFDC recipient with a 17-year-old son who graduated from high school. This child is planning to attend college starting in the fall. Over the summer months, he has been taking care of a neighbor's child. He is working full time and his earnings have been above the minimum wage. Is this income countable?

**A.** No. Although this 17-year-old is not currently attending classes, he intends to return to school in the fall and is still considered an eligible dependent child and a full-time student until his 18th birthday. This means that his wages are disregarded for a period not to exceed six months in a calendar year. The six-month period begins with the first month in a calendar year in which the dependent child has earned income. When this child turns 18, he is no longer eligible. For more information on TAFDC student earnings, refer to 106 CMR 204.260.

**Q.** The recipient described in the question above is also receiving food stamp benefits. How is the income treated for food stamp purposes?

**A.** For food stamp purposes, the 17-year-old's earnings are countable since the child is no longer attending secondary school (or a lower level school) or a GED Program at least half-time. For more information on excluded income in the Food Stamp Program, refer to 106 CMR 363.230 (H).

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