

Senate Bill 1232 Impacts to CalWORKs

NEW LAW

A new law, Senate Bill 1232, made some important changes in the Welfare-to-Work (WTW) program for CalWORKs participants. These changes may make it easier for you to choose education or training as your WTW activity. Ask your WTW worker to help you figure out if the school you want to go to qualifies.

CHANGES FOR PARTICIPANTS IN POSTSECONDARY (HIGHER) EDUCATION

1. You do not need to ask the county before signing up for postsecondary (higher) education while on CalWORKs. You can also add or drop classes and change your major as needed.
2. Your worker will now count 3 hours of study time for every unit you enroll in. For example, if you take a 3-unit class, your worker will count it as 9 hours a week of study time and add that to the 3 class units to equal 12 total hours towards your required WTW hourly participation.
3. Your total academic units and study time must be
 - a. 20 hours a week if you have a child under 6 years old,
 - b. 30 hours a week if your child is 6 years old and older, and
 - c. 35 hours a week for two-parent families.
 - d. You are meeting your WTW hourly participation requirements if you are enrolled in postsecondary school full-time
4. You don't have to do an initial job search or job club activity if you are enrolled in an education activity at an approved school.
5. Your County Welfare Department may conduct an assessment to see if you have any challenges they could help you with, such as a learning disability, substance use disorder, mental health need, or domestic violence. However, your assessment cannot be used to stop you from going to an approved school or choosing your major or field of study. Also, your assessment may be done by phone or virtually (online), unless you want it to be in-person.
6. If you have given the county proof of enrollment, you will get an advance payment for books and required supplies at least 10 days before the beginning of the school session.
 - a. For the semester system, \$500 will be given to full-time students and \$250 will be given to part-time students.
 - b. For the quarter system, \$350 will be given to full-time students and \$175 to part-time students.
 - c. If the cost of books and supplies cost more than the advance payment you got, you can get paid back for the extra money you needed to spend. You will have to talk to your worker and show proof of the actual amount you paid for the books and supplies you needed for school.

To review the full notice, please view the [California Department of Social Services All County Letter 21-04](#)