## Chapter 9: Special Needs Benefits

### (xiii) Back to School Benefit

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| **Intent:** | To outline eligibility criteria for the **Back to School Benefit** for families currently in receipt of income support with school-aged dependents. |
| **Act:** (if applicable) | N/A |
| **Regulations:** | **19.** (5) Other income support for which an applicant or recipient may be eligible is:<br><br>(e) for a recipient with one or more school-aged dependents, an annual contribution towards school-related expenses in the amount of $100 a year in respect of each school-aged dependent of the recipient; and<br><br>(f) for a recipient who is 18 years of age or older but under 21 years of age who attends high school, an annual contribution towards school-related expenses in the amount of $100 a year. |
| **Overview:** (if applicable) | The **Back to School Benefit** is designed to support families receiving income support by helping cover the cost of school supplies for school-aged dependents at the start of each academic year.<br><br>The benefit will be automatically issued to eligible families once per year, during the months of August or September, for the upcoming school year. |
| **Policy:** | • Families who receive Income Support benefits in August and/or September with school-aged dependents active on their file are eligible.<br><br>• Recipients aged **18 to 21** who are still completing their high school education are also eligible, provided they submit **verification of enrollment** for the upcoming school year.<br><br>• The benefit provides **$100 per eligible dependent/recipient.** |

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| **Procedure:** | Client Services Officers must: <br><br> • Confirm the number of school aged dependents active on the family's file. <br><br> • Receive verification of enrollment from recipients aged **18 to 21** who are still completing their high school education before providing the benefit. <br><br> • Issue the benefit **once per year**, during the **months of August or September**, for the upcoming school year. |
| **Authority Level:** | Client Services Officer |
| **Date revised:** | July 24, 2025 |