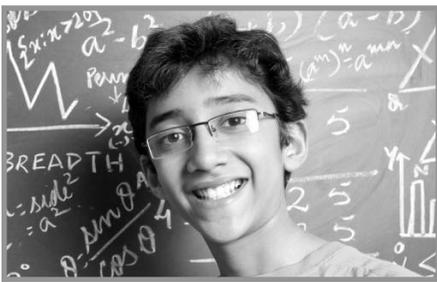




Children Ages 6 through 18 Must Attend School to Remain Eligible for Cash Assistance



Because we know that school attendance is important for each and every child's future, a new policy is being put in place for cash assistance clients. Beginning Oct. 1, 2012, families who are initially applying for cash assistance or applying for the continuation of benefits must provide proof that the children are attending school regularly.

A form must be completed by the child's school stating that the child is not truant (missing a certain amount of days as defined by the school district). If the child is home schooled, verification of

the organized program used, curriculum agenda, instruction materials, or student records is required.

If the school district reports that the child is truant, cash benefits will be suspended until it is verified that the child has attended school for 21 consecutive calendar days. If the child is 6 through 15 years old, cash assistance will be suspended for the entire family. If the child is 16 or 17 years old, cash assistance will be suspended for the child only. Children 16 and older, as well as minor parents, will also be required to verify attendance at each birthday.

Parents under the age of 18 are required to attend high school full-time or cash benefits will be suspended. If the parent has already graduated from high school, they must participate in the work participation program.

If you have any questions regarding the new policy, contact your caseworker.



Resources Available if Your Child Is Struggling to Attend School

If your child is having difficulty attending school there are DHS and community resources to help:

- *Mentors.*
- *Tutors.*
- *Clothing.*
- *Alarm clocks.*
- *Referrals to counseling.*
- *Food assistance.*

We are here to help ensure that your child is preparing for the future by attending school. Please contact your caseworker if you need additional assistance.

DHS to Locate Caseworkers in the Community

DHS has announced a new program called Pathways to Potential, designed to locate our caseworkers where clients can most easily connect with them. A pilot program was launched in September, locating DHS social workers in select elementary schools throughout

Detroit, Flint, Saginaw and Pontiac. By early 2013 there will be a dedicated DHS social worker in each elementary school in these communities.

For more information visit michigan.gov/PathwaysToPotential.

**PATHWAYS TO
POTENTIAL**



Providing You with an Important Tool to Help in Your Job Search

The federal government has a plan in place to help you secure a free mobile telephone. Understanding that a successful job search often requires that clients be easily reachable by potential employers, the federal government has worked with Safe Link Wireless to provide free mobile phones and 250 minutes per month to those who qualify based on income.

For more information please visit safelinkwireless.com or contact your caseworker.

No Kid Hungry Michigan Wants You to Take Advantage of School Breakfast!



Many nutrition experts say breakfast is the most important meal of the day and this is especially true for kids. Breakfast helps make sure students are ready to learn, keeps them healthy, and helps them pay attention in class.

Did you know that your kids can eat breakfast at most schools each morning for free? Having your kids eat breakfast at school can also help you stretch your family's food dollars during difficult times.

Children in households participating in the Food Assistance or Family Independence Programs, or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, qualify for free or reduced price meals. Talk to your child's school to learn more or log on to michigan.gov/schoolnutrition.

This summer the No Kid Hungry Michigan campaign helped hundreds of thousands of Michigan children get access to free summer meals. Now, as your family settles into a new school year, No Kid Hungry Michigan wants to make sure your kids start the day right with a healthy breakfast.

You can also call 2-1-1 for more information about food assistance in your area or log on to mi.nokidhungry.org to learn more about the No Kid Hungry Michigan campaign to help kids and families get more access to summer meals, school breakfast and nutrition education.

Get Online

NOT

in line

Change your information

Check on the status of an application

Upload documents

Renew benefits

and more

Visit

michigan.gov/mibridges

to provide information or check on the status of your case 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

You Don't Need to Wait In Line at the County Office - MI Bridges Is Online 24/7

Do you need to change your information? Check on the status of your application? Apply for benefits or submit documents for redetermination?

Before you wait in line at the county office, visit michigan.gov/mibridges. Nearly everything that you can do at the county office can now be done online - without waiting.



Clip out this reminder and keep it with you.