

Cal-Learn Handbook

2022-2023



Kern County

Welcome to Cal-Learn!

Cal-Learn is a state mandated program for pregnant and parenting teens. To qualify for Cal-Learn, you must:

- be under the age of 19
- not yet have a high school diploma or GED
- reside in the same household as your child
- reside in a household that receives cash aid

When you turn 19, you may be eligible to volunteer for Cal-Learn if you are still attending high school. You can only volunteer to age 20.

Why Participate in Cal-Learn?

Cal-Learn Pays You to Go to School!

Under the Cal-Learn program, you can earn **\$100** bonus payments up to four times per year (quarterly). You must provide a report card verifying you achieved grades of a “C” or better in your high school program.

If you are unable to earn all four bonuses, you can submit summer school grades verifying a 2.0 or better GPA and receive a summer bonus.

When you graduate from high school or receive your GED, you can earn **\$500**.

You are not eligible for bonuses or penalties until you have been in the Cal-Learn program for 90 days. This is called the initial 90-day period. It's a good time to learn the program and get used to the Cal-Learn requirements.

PLEASE NOTE: Your family's cash aid will be lowered if you drop out of school, fail, or do not submit quarterly grades (Cal-Learn Penalty).

What Are My Responsibilities?

- Attend an accredited school for high school diploma or GED.
 - Independent study counts toward Cal-Learn participation.
 - For profit vocational schools are not approved for Cal-Learn.
- Make two monthly contacts with your Cal-Learn Social Service Worker (SSW).
- Turn in a report card or progress report by the due date each quarter.
- Tell your SSW if you stop attending school or are struggling with your grades. Your SSW can offer resources and referrals to help you through the difficulties that are holding you back.
- Report the following changes within 5 business days:
 - New Address
 - New Phone Number
 - Change in School Schedule
 - Change in Child Care
 - Change in Transportation

Why Should I Finish High School?

- You will average \$10,000 more each year in earnings than a non-graduate.
- Your child is more likely to graduate if you do!
- High School graduates experience less stress, report stronger relationships, and live an average of 9 years longer than non-graduates.

What Services Can I Receive?

As a Cal-Learn participant, you will be assigned a SSW (Social Services Worker) who will monitor your school progress. Your SSW can also help arrange the following services:

Behavioral Health Services

- Individual and group counseling to help you in daily life

Substance Abuse Counseling

- To help you overcome drug and alcohol use

Domestic Violence Services

- Domestic abuse counseling in a safe and private environment
- Referrals for legal services, community resources, and finding a safe shelter

Transportation

- Bus passes to attend school program
- Mileage at the public transportation rate

Ancillary

- School related expenses with approval
- DMV Reduced Fee ID referrals

Child Care

- Community Connection for Child Care based on household composition

Empower Hour

- Completely virtual, weekly workshops on a variety of topics. You will receive \$25 for each workshop you attend.

Extra-Curricular Activities

- Various fun & helpful events arranged throughout the year.

2021-2022 Report Card Submittal Date

Quarter	Dates Covered	Due to SSW
1st	08/17/22 – 10/14/22	10/28/22
2nd	10/17/22 – 12/23/22	01/06/23
3rd	01/09/23 – 03/17/23	03/31/23
4th	03/20/23 – 06/02/23	06/17/23

It is your responsibility to submit your grades by the due dates. If you do not turn in your grades, or turn them in late, your family's cash aid can be lowered. Be sure to contact your SSW early if you experience difficulty obtaining grades.

IMPORTANT

- **YOU WILL NOT GET A BONUS IF YOU DO NOT TURN IN YOUR GRADES.**
- **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SUBMIT YOUR GRADES BY THE DUE DATES.**
- **IF YOU FAIL TO SUBMIT YOUR GRADES YOUR FAMILY'S CASH AID CAN BE LOWERED.**
- **YOUR CASE MANAGER CAN NOT OBTAIN YOUR GRADES FOR YOU.**

PLEASE NOTE

If you are a continuing CalLearn student and your case manager helped obtain grades for you during the pandemic, please know that was a courtesy. We have been instructed that bonuses cannot be issued if a case manager has to request grades. Put the due dates in your phone calendar and/or post them where you can see them.

Special Circumstances

You may be Exempt from Cal-Learn if:

- You are ill, injured, or physically unable to go to school.
- You are expelled from school and an alternative school cannot be arranged.
- You cannot get child care or transportation.
- You are in Foster Care.

Verification is required for a Cal-Learn exemption.



Feeling like this?
Stress management is available.

You may be Deferred from Cal-Learn if:

- You have a special need that stops you from meeting program requirements and the special need cannot be met.
- The doctor has given you a period of time to recover after the birth of a child; (Cal-Learn allows two weeks without verification based on state regulations).

Verification is required for a Cal-Learn deferral.

Note: If you meet any of the listed reasons for being exempt or deferred from the Cal-Learn program, you are still required to go to school. California Education Code requires that you attend school.

What Happens After Cal-Learn?

YES/Welfare-to-WORK

Welfare-to-Work (WtW) is an employment program designed to help prepare you for employment. WtW is required if you are receiving cash aid under the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program and you are not exempt from participating. You may qualify for an exemption if you have a child under two.

WtW requires 87, 130, or 152 monthly participation hours depending on household size. WtW activities may include:

- Job readiness activities
- Job search
- Work experience
- Paid work experience
- Vocational training

When you graduate or age out (reach age 19) of Cal-Learn you will be referred to the WtW YES Program. Your case manager will help you understand your options and together you will make a plan for continued success. If you age out of CalLearn without your high school diploma, YES is designed to allow you to keep working on that goal.



