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DIVISION: Office of Medicaid Management

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TO: Local District Commissioners, Medicaid Directors

FROM: Betty Rice, Director
Division of Consumer and Local District Relations

SUBJECT: Increase in the SSI-Related Student Earned Income Disregard

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2002

CONTACT PERSON: Bureau of Local District Support
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This is to inform social services districts of the increase in the student earned income disregard for certified disabled and certified blind children.

Recognizing that students with disabilities incur special expenses to go to school, the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program provides for an earned income disregard for a child under the age of 22 who is regularly attending a school, college, or university, or a course of vocational or technical training designed to prepare him or her for gainful employment. In response to increases in school expenses and as part of the Social Security Administration's (SSA) effort to help SSI children who are students finance their school attendance and encourage them to work, SSA has increased the earned income disregard to \$1,320 a month (up to a maximum of \$5,340 annually) effective January 1, 2002. Since the Medicaid program must be no more restrictive than the SSI program when determining eligibility for certified blind or certified disabled individuals, effective January 1, 2002, the increased student earned income disregard must also be used in determining Medicaid eligibility for certified blind and certified disabled students who are under age 22.