



If you intend to claim ABSTUDY School Fee in 2023, you are not eligible to apply for the Secondary Assistance Scheme. Please see back of page for ABSTUDY Supplement Allowance additional information eligibility.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Western Australian Department of Education provides an allowance to assist eligible families with secondary schooling costs.

Parents/guardians must apply for the Secondary Assistance Scheme (SAS) each school year (annually) – applications do not carry forward to future years.

To be eligible for the allowance the parent/guardian must hold a Services Australia (Centrelink) or Veterans' Affairs card that represents a statement of income for the family.

The allowance consists of two components:

- \$115 Clothing Allowance paid directly to the parent/guardian or the school.
- \$235 Educational Program Allowance paid directly to the school.

Application is made by the parent or guardian for student/s enrolled in Years 7–12 studying a full time secondary course at a Western Australian public school.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Parent or Guardian must hold one of the following cards:

- Centrelink Health Care Card
- Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card
- Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card

Please Note: The only Veterans' Affairs Card that meets the criteria is a blue card that is issued annually and expires in December each year. This card is income means tested.

The parent/guardian must be the holder of a card that is valid some time during first term. Students must be listed on claimant's card (except for some year 11 and 12 students, or in cases of disability/health reasons). In this instance, the school must sight both concession cards. The only exception to this is when a student holds their own health care card and has been declared independent by Centrelink (e.g. Living Away from Home). In this instance, a letter of confirmation from Centrelink needs to accompany the application. The concession card must not be expired when applying for SAS.

The allowance is paid up to and including the year the student turns 18 years of age i.e. students born in 2004 or before are ineligible in 2023.

APPLICATION FORMS

Application forms are electronic. Please bring your card to Reception at the commencement of Term 1, 2023 to apply.

LATE APPLICATIONS

Late applications will only be accepted in extenuating circumstances and must be accompanied with a written explanation.

Eligible interstate or overseas students who are enrolled after first term may apply for the allowance. Date of enrolment must be noted on the application.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND CHARGES

Schools will receive the Educational Program Allowance of \$235 for Secondary Assistance recipients. For students in Years 7 to 10 the Allowance will be paid directly to the school and in the first instance, will be applied towards the voluntary contribution. Any balance will be applied against charges or as negotiated with the parent/guardian. For students in Years 11 to 12 the Allowance will be applied to cover charges, in the first instance.

CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

The clothing allowance of \$115 will be paid to the parent/guardian unless indicated on the application form that you wish it to be paid to the school. If payment to the parent/guardian is requested, the payment will be deposited into the parent/guardian bank account. It can take between 8 to 12 weeks to receive this payment.

PROCESSING OF PAYMENTS

Once the form is signed by the parent/guardian, the school will forward either the electronic file (via email) to the Financial Planning and Resourcing Directorate for processing whilst retaining the **original application form at the school** or if completing applications manually, forward the **original application forms** retaining a photocopy for the school records.

If you change any of your details supplied on the application form, please notify us as soon as possible on 9264 4516.

We will endeavour to have all clothing payments made to the parent/guardian by 31 May 2023.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Financial Planning and Resourcing Directorate
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EAST PERTH WA 6004
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Email: student.allowances@education.wa.edu.au