



GENERAL INFORMATION

The State Government through the Western Australian Department of Education provides an allowance to assist eligible families with secondary schooling costs. The ABSTUDY Supplement Allowance is available to valid Services Australia (Centrelink) card holders, this funding supplements the Centrelink ABSTUDY Fees Allowance payment.

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 supplement allowance, the parent/guardian must hold a Centrelink or Veterans' Affairs card that represents a statement of income for the family. Furthermore, the school or parent must have received the School Fee Allowance of \$78 or \$156 from the Centrelink as part of the student's ABSTUDY School Fees Allowance.

The Department of Education ABSTUDY Supplement Allowance consists of \$79 Education Program Allowance paid directly to the school.

Please note that the Secondary Assistance Scheme cannot be claimed as well as this allowance.

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

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 a health care card in their name and is declared independent by the 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 2005 or before are ineligible in 2024.

APPLICATION FORMS

Application forms should not be altered and are to be completed at the school or emailed during Term 1 only. If completing an application via email and/or signing the application electronically, applicants must also email a copy of both sides of the application concession card with the application to the school. If the form is completed prior to the commencement of Term 1 the school must complete the enrolment confirmation section to confirm attendance. (Forms dated by the school prior to Term 1, 2024 will not be accepted). Please ensure you keep a photocopy of the signed form for school records.

Personal information collected will only be used for the purpose of managing the Secondary Assistance Scheme. The Department will not disclose your personal information for any other reason.

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 ABSTUDY Supplement Allowance of \$79 for Secondary Assistance recipients. This will be applied towards education program charges in the first instance, with any residual to be applied to the voluntary contribution (for years 7 to 10) or as negotiated with the parent/guardian (for Years 11 to 12).

PROCESSING OF PAYMENTS

Once the application form is completed by the parent/guardian, the school will witness the application and submit to the Financial Planning and Resourcing Directorate for processing via:

- electronic file (via email) whilst retaining the original application form at the school

or

- posting 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.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Financial Planning and Resourcing Directorate Department of Education
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EAST PERTH WA 6004

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