



SSI STUDENT EARNED INCOME EXCLUSION

The Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE) is a work incentive that allows certain SSI recipients who are under age 22 and regularly attending school to exclude a specified amount of gross earned income per month up to a maximum annual exclusion. The SEIE decreases the amount of countable earned income, thus permitting SSI recipients to keep more of the SSI check when they work. In many cases, the SEIE allows students to test their ability to work without experiencing any reduction in the SSI check at all.

Who is eligible for the Student Earned Income Exclusion?

If you are under age 22 and regularly attending school, the Social Security Administration does not count up to \$1,820 of earned income per month when it figures your SSI payment amount. The maximum yearly exclusion is \$7,350. These amounts are for the year 2018; the amounts are adjusted each year based on the cost-of-living.

What does “regularly attending school” mean?

“Regularly attending school” means that the person takes one or more courses of study and attends class:

- in a college or university for at least 8 hours per week; or
- in grades 7 through 12 for at least 12 hours per week; or
- in a training course to prepare for employment for at least 12 hours per week (15 hours a week if the course involves shop practice); or
- for less time than indicated above for reasons beyond the student’s control (such as illness).

A person who is homebound because of a disability may be a student when he or she studies a course or courses given by a school (grades 7 through 12), college, university, or government agency and has a home visitor or tutor from school who directs the study or training.

Remember, the Student Earned Income Exclusion is not automatic.

You must ask your Social Security Representative for it.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you need more information or need help, please contact the Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) unit of Disability Rights Pennsylvania (DRP) at 1-800-692-7443, ext. 309 (voice) or 877-375-7139 (TDD).

The mission of Disability Rights Pennsylvania is to advance, protect, and advocate for the human, civil, and legal rights of Pennsylvanians with disabilities. Due to our limited resources, Disability Rights Pennsylvania cannot provide individual services to every person with advocacy and legal issues. Disability Rights Pennsylvania prioritizes cases that have the potential to result in widespread, systemic changes to benefit persons with disabilities. While we cannot provide assistance to everyone, we do seek to provide every individual with information and referral options.

IMPORTANT: This publication is for general informational purposes only. This publication is not intended, nor should be construed, to create an attorney-client relationship between the Disability Rights Pennsylvania and any person. Nothing in this publication should be considered to be legal advice.

PLEASE NOTE: For information in alternative formats or a language other than English, contact Disability Rights Pennsylvania at 1-800-692-7443, Ext. 400 or TDD: 877-375-7139 or intake@disabilityrightspa.org.