



SSI's Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE)

What is the Student Earned Income Exclusion?

The Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE) is a Supplemental Security Income (SSI) work incentive applied before any other earned income-related exclusions. It allows students who have disabilities and are receiving SSI to have up to \$2,290 per month of their wages excluded when calculating their SSI check up to a maximum of \$9,230 per year in 2024. These wages will NOT impact the SSI check. Once the individual reaches their monthly or yearly maximum amount, the standard SSI budgeting rules will apply.

Who Qualifies for SEIE?

For a student to qualify for the SEIE, they must:

- Be receiving SSI benefits.
- Be under age 22.
- Be enrolled in school (up to grade 12) for 12 hours a week or more or
- Be enrolled in college for 8 hours a week or more or
- In an approved job training course for 12 hours a week or more.

Special Conditions

The student doesn't necessarily have to be in the classroom to qualify for the SEIE. If the student receives home instruction for at least 12 hours a week or cannot regularly attend school due to illness or disability, they may still qualify for the exclusion. Students will still qualify for the SEIE during the summer months if they indicate to Social Security that they intend to go back to school when classes resume.

How Does One Apply?

When the beneficiary reports their wages to Social Security for the first time, they should request the SEIE in writing using SSA's statement of claimant form or writing a letter. With the letter, they will also need to provide enrollment documentation that they're in school or a training program. Examples of approved documentation include a class schedule or a statement from the student's institution (on letterhead) verifying enrollment. If a person receives VR services or Medicaid waiver, they should consult with their VR counselor about receiving assistance from a Work Incentives Specialist Advocate (WISA) to request the SEIE. All others can contact the Social Security-funded WIPA project at 1-866-968-7842.