SECONDARY ASSISTANCE SCHEME
- PRIVATE SCHOOLS -
2013 ELIGIBILITY AND PROCEDURES

ELIGIBILITY

CLAIMANT
♦ The Claimant must hold one of the following cards, valid for a period of no less than 4 weeks
  o Centrelink Family Health Care Card
    • Card holder must be parent/guardian. Claims cannot be made by a parent using a student’s card (i.e. the student may hold a card for disability purposes)
  o Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card
    • Student name should be listed on the card (except for some year 11 and 12 students, see note below)
  o Department of Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card
    • Health Pensioner Card, TPI / TPI Gold Cards or State Cards cannot be accepted as they are issued for medical benefit purposes only

CARD DETAILS
♦ The card must be current some time during first term (04 February – 19 April 2013).
♦ For overseas or interstate applicants applying throughout the year, the card must be current at time of application. Application for the Secondary Assistance Scheme must be made within one month of enrolling at the school.

STUDENTS
♦ Must be enrolled in years 8 to 12 studying a full-time secondary course. Allowance is paid up to and including the year the student turns 18 years of age (i.e. not eligible if born in 1994).
♦ Students can only claim for themselves if they are classified by Centrelink as an Independent Youth. Appropriate evidence must be supplied by Centrelink to validate the claim.

NOTE FOR YEAR 11 AND 12 STUDENTS
♦ Students in Years 11 and 12 will possibly not be listed on the parent/guardian concession card, however if the parent/guardian holds a valid concession they will still be eligible.
INELIGIBILITY

- Parents/Guardians/Students in receipt of ABSTUDY School Fees Allowance through Centrelink (Commonwealth Aboriginal Secondary Grants Scheme).
  - ABSTUDY payments are made for schooling expenses, the same purpose as the Secondary Assistance Scheme, therefore both cannot be applied for. Alternatively the ABSTUDY Supplement Allowance of $79 may be applied for.

- Students who have previously received the allowance when enrolled at another school in the same year.

- Students cannot claim on their own concession card unless they have been declared independent by Centrelink. Proof of independent status needs to be provided.

- Foster parents cannot apply as the child is a Ward of the State. The Department for Child Protection is responsible for all associated costs.

CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

- Claimants who satisfy the eligibility criteria will receive payment of $115.

- Claimants that submit applications for students from interstate or overseas who enrol during the year will receive the full $115 clothing allowance.

EDUCATION PROGRAM ALLOWANCE

- An amount of $235 will be paid to the school for eligible claimants.

- Applications submitted for students from interstate or overseas who enrol after term one will receive a pro-rata Education Program Allowance at $58.75 per term enrolled.

- To assist with prompt payments schools are requested to post completed application forms as soon as they are completed.
GENERAL INFORMATION

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

To be eligible for the allowance the parent/guardian must hold a 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.
- $235 Educational Program Allowance paid directly to the school.

Application is made by the parent or guardian for students enrolled in Years 8-12 at a secondary school.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Parent or Guardian must hold one of the following cards:
- Centrelink Family 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 each year 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. 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 allowance is paid up to and including the year the student turns 18 years of age i.e. students born in 1994 or before are ineligible in 2013.

APPLICATION FORMS

Application forms are to be completed at the school in Term 1. Please ensure to keep a photocopy of the signed form for school records.

Applications close 19 April 2013.

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.

PROCESSING OF PAYMENTS

Once the form is completed by the parent/guardian, the school will forward it to the address below for processing.

The payment of the Educational Program Allowance is made directly to the school and should be deducted from your school account.

The Clothing Allowance payment will be deposited directly into the parent/guardian’s bank account. It can between take between 8 – 12 weeks to receive this payment.

If you change any of your details other than that 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 30 June 2013.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Schools Resourcing and Budgeting Directorate
Department of Education
151 Royal Street
EAST PERTH WA 6004

Telephone: (08) 9264 4516
Facsimile: (08) 9264 5162
Email: student.assistance@education.wa.edu.au

Applications close 19 April 2013.