

# 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, we do not count up to \$1,640 of earned income per month when we figure your SSI payment amount. The maximum yearly exclusion is \$6,600. These amounts are for the year 2011; they 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 7-12), 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.***

### DRN WIPA Program

Work Incentives Planning and Assistance Program  
Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania ([www.drnpa.org](http://www.drnpa.org))  
1414 N. Cameron Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17103  
1 -800-692-7443 Ext. 309 or call your CWIC’s direct number