

Student Earned Income Exclusion

Using the Student Earned Income Exclusion allows you to keep more of your Supplemental Security Income (SSI) check and have additional money from working.

The Student Earned Income Exclusion can be used when you are working, under age 22 and also considered to be regularly attending school. SSI rules for regularly attending school are as follows:

- in grades 7 - 12 attending school at least 12 hours per week, or
- in college/university at least 8 hours per week, or
- in job training at least 15 hours per week with shop practice, or
- in job training for 12 hours per week if there is no shop practice

If you have problems regularly attending school, talk with your local Social Security office. You may still be able to use the Student Earned Income Exclusion.

Why Use the Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE)?

Here is an example of how the Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE) can make an SSI payment higher.

Sue receives \$674 of SSI when she is not working. Normally, if Sue was earning \$885 per

month her SSI payment would be \$274 per month. If Sue were able to use the Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE), her SSI check would stay at \$674.

The Student Earned Income Exclusion is limited to \$1,640 per month and to \$6,600 per year. This means:

- If your gross earnings are below \$1,640 for the month your SSI payment will not change.
- Once your monthly gross earnings are more than \$1,640 your SSI payment will gradually decrease.
- Once your earnings total \$6,600 for the calendar year, you have used up the Student Earned Income Exclusion for 2009. You will not be able to use this work incentive again until next year.

If you want to know how SSI is figured when you work and use the SEIE, call the Connection for more information.

To Use the Student Earned Income Exclusion:

1. Call your SSI Claims Representative:

at: _____

Tell SSI you are working and are also a student. Ask if you can use the Student Earned Income Exclusion.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Work Incentive Plan
Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE) continued

NOTES TO KEEP

Tell them the name, address and phone number for the school you are attending. Tell them the number of hours you are attending school, the types of classes you are taking and when you started attending classes.

2. Gather any information the SSI Claims Representative asks you to send in. This may include your class schedule, school ID card, or tuition receipt that proves you are in school. You should also send any paystubs you have from working.
3. Send all the information to the Claims Representative with a note asking her/him to call to let you know if you can use the Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE).
4. **Do not assume you get to use the SEIE until your Claims Representative says it has been approved.** Call the Connection if you have problems or questions.
5. Keep all of your paystubs in a safe place so they are easy to find.
6. Report changes in your school plans to Social Security as soon as they occur. For example, you quit school, graduate or drop some classes.
7. Be sure to send copies of your paystubs to Social Security when they ask for them.

Date you called your Claims Representative:

What you told your Claims Representative and what they told you:

Did your Claims Representative approve the SEIE? **Yes** or **No**

What do you need to send them?

When should you send the information in?

Date you sent the information to SSI:

For more information regarding how work will affect your government benefits call the MN Work Incentives Connection at 651-632-5113 or 1-800-976-6728.

This information was prepared for you by the MN Work Incentives Connection. The Connection cannot guarantee that you will be able to use the work incentive, the Student Earned Income Exclusion. You must get this work incentive approved by your local Social Security office by following the steps outlined above.