

Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE)

a program of **GOODWILL·EASTER SEALS®**
MINNESOTA

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/lab practice, or
- in job training for 12 hours per week if there is no shop/lab 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.

Example of using SEIE

Sue receives \$783 of SSI when she is not working. Normally, if Sue was earning \$885 per month her SSI payment would be reduced to \$383 per month. If Sue were able to use the Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE), her SSI check would remain \$783.

The Student Earned Income Exclusion is limited to \$1,900 per month and to \$7,670 per year in 2020. This means:

- If your gross earnings are below \$1,900 for the month your SSI payment will not change.
- Once your monthly gross earnings are more than \$1,900 your SSI payment will gradually decrease.
- Once your earnings total \$7,670 for the calendar year, you have used up the Student Earned Income Exclusion for 2020. You will not be able to use this work incentive again until next year.

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

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

To Use the Student Earned Income Exclusion:

1. Call your SSI Claims Specialist: _____
at _____

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

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
Specialist 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
Specialist 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 Specialist says it has been
approved.**

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.

NOTES TO KEEP

Date you called your Claims Specialist:

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

Did your Claims Specialist 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 Work
Incentives Connection at 651-632-5113 or 1-
800-976-6728 or MN Relay- 711

This information was prepared for you by the 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.