

## STUDENT EARNED INCOME EXCLUSION

Students under the age of 22, who are regularly attending school, can take advantage of the Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE) while working during the summer and during the school year. The Social Security Administration (SSA) will allow a student to deduct up to \$1870 in earned income per month. The annual total deduction allowed is \$7550.

SSA MUST be told that the individual receiving benefits is a student. Enrollment forms, transcripts, etc., can be used to prove student status. The student must be “regularly attending school”. This requirement has been defined by SSA as:

- College or University attendance for at least 8 hours a week, or
- In grades 7 – 12 for at least 12 hours a week, or
- In a training course/technical school preparing for employment for at least 12 hours a week (15 hours if the training has a hands on training component), or
- For less time for reasons, such as illness, that are beyond the student’s control.

Many students with severe disabilities attend school at home using a tutor or may be home-schooled. Provided either of these plans meets state guidelines the individual will be a student for SEIE purposes.

The SEIE is the first income exclusion used by SSA when determining how much SSI is payable and, very often, results in the elimination of ALL countable income.

### Jill’s story

Jill is a student and works part time during the school year and full time during the summer months. During the school months she earns \$400 per week. Since the SEIE allows an exclusion of up to \$1870 per month, ALL of her earned income will be disregarded by SSA. As a result she will have \$1150 - \$750 in SSI plus her \$400 in earnings. After one month, she will have \$7150 to use for the remainder of the year.

The Student Earned Income Exclusion is commonly missed by recipients and SSA. Why? No one tells SSA that the recipient is a student!! Be sure that enrollment documents are given to SSI to ensure that the SEIE is applied to your student’s claim!

For more information, visit our website at:

[www.mdtransitions.org](http://www.mdtransitions.org)

## Did You Know?

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You can receive benefits/work incentive counseling as part of PreETS from DORS? For more info on DORS and PreETS from DORS [CLICK HERE](#)  
Not eligible for DORS? Try Ticket to Work Helpline: [TICKET](#)

For individuals not eligible/able to access benefits counseling through DORS, contact Ticket to Work Helpline at 1-866-968-7842 [DMitchell@innow.org](mailto:DMitchell@innow.org) or visit <http://www.innow.org/md-win/ssi.html>

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