Department of Education

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

2026

SECONDARY ASSISTANCE SCHEME
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Applications close - 2 April 2026

GENERAL INFORMATION
The Western Australian Government through the Department of Education provides an allowance to assist eligible families with secondary schooling costs.

Parents/guardians must apply for the Secondary Assistance Scheme (SAS) each school year (annually) – applications do not carry forward to future years.

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

Application is made by the parent or guardian for student/s enrolled in Years 7–12 studying a full-time secondary course at a Western Australian public school.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
Parent or Guardian must hold one of the following cards:

- Centrelink 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 annually 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 sometime during first term. Students must be listed on claimant's card (except for some year 11 and 12 students, or in cases of disability/health reasons). In this instance, the school must sight both concession cards. 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 which case a letter of confirmation from Centrelink must accompany the application. The concession card must not be expired when applying for SAS.

Parent/guardian must not be a foster parent.

Student must be attending school.

The allowance is paid up to and including the year the student turns 18 years of age i.e. students born in 2007 or before are ineligible in 2026.

APPLICATION FORMS
Application forms should not be altered and are to be completed at the school or emailed during Term 1 only. If completing an application via email and/or signing the application electronically, applicants must also email a copy of both sides of their concession card with the application to the school. If the application form is completed prior to the commencement of Term 1, the school must complete the enrolment confirmation section to confirm attendance (forms dated by the school prior to Term 1, 2026 will not be accepted). Please ensure you keep a copy of the signed form for school records.

Personal information collected will only be used for the purpose of managing the SAS. The Department will not disclose your personal information for any other reason.

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.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND CHARGES
Schools will receive the Educational Program Allowance of $235 for SAS recipients. This will be applied towards education program charges in the first instance, with any residual to be applied to the voluntary contribution (for years 7 to 10) or as negotiated with the parent/guardian (for years 11 to 12).

CLOTHING ALLOWANCE
The clothing allowance of $115 will be paid to the parent/guardian unless indicated on the application form that you wish for it to be paid to the school. If payment is to be made to the parent/guardian, the payment will be deposited into the nominated bank account. It can take between 8 to 12 weeks to receive this payment.

PROCESSING OF PAYMENTS
Applicants must submit the completed form to their school with their concession card. The school must check the form for accuracy, view the concession card and witness the application. Schools will then submit applications to the Financial Planning and Resourcing Directorate for processing via:

- electronic file (via email) whilst retaining the **original application form at the school**

or

- posting the **original application forms** retaining a copy for the school records.

If you change any of your details 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 31 May 2026.

FURTHER INFORMATION
For queries about an application, contact your school.