

# Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE)

## Tip Sheet 2021

### How can SEIE help you?

If you receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), are under age 22, and regularly attending school, you can work and make a significant amount of money without having your SSI cash benefits reduced. This is due to the SEIE work incentive.

### How does SEIE work?

Social Security considers you to be 'regularly attending school' if you take one or more courses of study and attend classes:

- In a college or university, for at least 8 hours a week; or
- In grades 7-12, for at least 12 hours a week; or
- In a training course to prepare for employment, for at least 12 hours a week (15 hours a week if the course involves shop practice); or
- For less time than indicated above, if for reasons beyond the student's control, such as illness.

Note: If you are home schooled because of a disability, you may be considered 'regularly attending school by:

- Studying a course or courses given by a school (grades 7-12), college, university, or government agency; or
- Having a home visitor or tutor who teaches you.

### How can you apply for SEIE?

If you feel you meet the qualifications described above, then you and/or your Representative Payee should speak to an SSI Claims Representative at your local Social Security office and ask if you are eligible for SEIE. It is highly recommended you bring a formal letter from your school to facilitate this process.

### How does SEIE work?

In 2020, if you qualify for SEIE, you can earn up to the maximum of \$1,930 in gross monthly earnings, or the yearly maximum of \$7,770, without seeing an impact in your SSI cash benefits. You likely will only see an impact in your SSI if you ever earn above the monthly SEIE maximum, or if you earn over the yearly SEIE maximum before the end of the year. The figures above are usually adjusted every year, based on the cost-of-living.

### What else must you do when you work?

You must report new work activity to your local Social Security office, as well your monthly income by the 6<sup>th</sup> of every month. Mail copies of your paystubs, or use the SSI Phone Wage Reporting System (1-866-772-0953) or the SSI Mobile Wage Reporting application to report your income. Whichever way you choose, always request a receipt for what you reported. Lastly, when applying for SEIE, it is recommended you go to your local Social Security office in person.

*SEIE helps working students who receive SSI to earn income while attending school, to keep more of their SSI cash benefit, and to improve their employment outcomes. A Community Work Incentives Coordinator can help you understand the SEIE process and eligibility criteria.*

For more information about **Work Without Limits Benefits Counseling** contact

1-877-YES-WORK (1-877-937-9675) or visit <http://www.workwithoutlimits.org/benefits-counseling/>