



The Student Earned Income Exclusion is for youth who work and receive SSI. It allows eligible students to maximize their earnings while they work. This means, you may keep more of your SSI while you are working and using the Student Earned Income Exclusion.

What are the requirements?

- Be SSI eligible
- Under age 22 (21 years or younger)
- Regularly attending school
 - 7th to 12th grade for at least 12 hours each week
 - College/University for at least 8 hours each week
 - Training course for employment for 12 hours each week
 - Approved homeschooling for 12 hours each week
 - Exception to hours when circumstances are outside student's control

So what is the SEIE?

Social Security sets a limit each year for the Student Earned Income Exclusion. In 2021, the limit is \$1,930 per month and \$7,700 for the year. That means you can earn up to \$1,930 per month with no change to your SSI payment. In 2021, you can earn a total of \$7,700 during the calendar year without effect on your SSI payment.





How does it work?

Kara started her freshman year at a local college. She is 19-years old. Kara is enrolled with 12 credits. She got a part-time job at the student center. She is paid about \$400 per month. Kara also remains eligible for the full SSI payment because none of her earned income will be used to calculate her SSI payment.

Robert works part-time at a coffee shop while he is enrolled in high school full-time. He is 17-years old. Robert is paid about \$350 per month. This is below the limit of \$1,930 so his SSI payment will not go down at all. If he earns this amount every month throughout the year, he will have \$5,400 of total earned income. This is also below the annual limit of \$7,700. For the whole year, Robert will never have his SSI payment go down because of his earnings. Robert still has to keep his assets and resources below \$2,000 to be eligible for SSI.

How to make the SEIE work for you:

1. Report your work to Social Security. You can do this by sending in your paystubs, using the wage reporting app, or with the automated telephone wage reporting system.
2. Provide proof of school enrollment. Contact the Social Security Administration for more information.
3. Let Social Security know if you stay in high school after age 18. They may not know if you are working in a program through age 21 in high school.
4. Even when you are not in school in the summer you can still use the SEIE. You just have to intend to return in the fall.

Only the Social Security Administration can make the determination if you qualify for SEIE and how your SSI may or may not be adjusted. Contact your local Social Security office to find out more about your specific situation. Maximize your career advancement by taking full advantage of the Student Earned Income Exclusion!

Benefits Counseling Help Line: 800-361-1239
Ticket to Work Help Line: 866-968-7842 / 866-833-2967 (TTY)