

<i>Act/Regulations</i> <i>Social Assistance Act Reg. 19(18)(b)</i> <i>Supports for Persons with</i> <i>Disabilities Act General Reg. 43</i>	Program	Social Assistance, AccessAbility Supports	
	Subject	School Age Allowance	<i>Policy #</i> SA 6.12 AAS 3.7.1
Effective Date: SA July 1, 1989 AAS March 26, 2019 Revised Date: August 1, 2021	Authorized by: Deputy Minister David Keedwell		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide support to applicants of Social Assistance (SA) or Assured Income (AI) to assist with the extra costs associated with dependent children attending school.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 **Applicant:** a person who applies for or on whose behalf an application is made for SA or AI.
- 2.2 **Assured Income (AI):** a component of AccessAbility Supports (AAS) that provides monthly financial benefits to eligible applicants with disabilities to use towards securing basic needs.
- 2.3 **Dependent:** a child of an applicant or an applicant's spouse who is under 18 years of age and lives with the applicant, or is 18 years of age or over, but under 25 years of age, and is attending a full-time education program, and is not receiving SA or AI.
- 2.4 **Recipient:** a person who is provided SA or AI and includes a person whose SA or AI have been suspended but not cancelled.
- 2.5 **Supports Coordinator:** a staff member that provides direction and case management support in delivering a range of social benefits and services to applicants eligible for Social Programs.

3.0 POLICY STATEMENT

- 3.1 For the purposes of this policy use of the word applicant is inclusive of recipient.
- 3.2 Dependents attending post-secondary education are not eligible for the school age allowance.
- 3.3 School age allowance benefits will be issued semi-annually to support eligible applicants of SA or AI with the additional costs associated with dependent children attending school from Pre-K to grade 12. Additional costs may include but are not limited to:
- School supplies;

- Activity fees;
- Locker fees;
- Clothing.

3.4 School age allowance benefits are based on the age of a dependent child as of August 1 and December 1. Children 10 years of age and younger will receive \$100 and children 11 years of age and older will receive \$125.

4.0 PROCEDURE STATEMENT

- 4.1 Supports Coordinators will verify applicants qualify for SA or AI for more than one consecutive month including either August or September; or December or January to qualify for a school age allowance.
- 4.2 School age allowance benefits will be issued automatically to eligible families of dependent children who on August 1 or December 1 are between the ages of 4 and 16 years inclusive.
- 4.3 Supports Coordinators will contact applicants with dependents aged 17 years of age and older to confirm secondary school enrollment and update the dependents school verification status in ISM prior to the designated cutoff date. Eligible dependents with an updated school verification status prior to the designated cutoff date will see the school allowance benefits issued automatically.
- 4.4 Where secondary school enrollment is not confirmed prior to the designated cutoff date, Supports Coordinators may issue the school age allowance benefits manually to eligible applicants.

HISTORY:

August 1, 2021 – Editorial, content, and format changes. Replaces AccessAbility Supports policy 3.7 - Special Needs, section 4.1. Title has been updated from School Allowance to School Age Allowance. Rates have increased from \$75 for children 10 years of age and under and \$100 for children 11 years of age and over to \$100 and \$125 respectively. Eligibility has expanded to include children attending pre-kindergarten and kindergarten, and staff are only required to validate eligibility for dependents aged 16 and older.