



How to access assistance with school expenses in child care, state, private and independent schools

Whether your child is in an independent, private or public school, there are a variety of funds and assistance packages that your school Principle can apply for on your behalf. It is important to apply for any assistance before the school year commences. If your principle is not aware of the assistance on offer please contact PCA Families and we will assist you.

Grandparent child care benefit

Grandparent Child Care Benefit is available to you if you are a grandparent who:

- meets the existing Child Care Benefit eligibility requirements
- receives an income support payment from Department of Human Services or the Department of Veterans' Affairs
- is the primary provider of the ongoing daily care for your grandchild and has the responsibility for the day-to-day decisions about your grandchild's care, welfare and development.

Grandparent Child Care Benefit covers the full cost of the total fee charged for Child Care Benefit eligible hours - up to 50 hours for each child in Child Care Benefit approved care each week.

For more information call 136150 or access website <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/child-care-benefit>

How to claim the Child Care Rebate?

- You will need to apply for the Child Care Benefit first. There is no separate claim form for the Child Care Rebate. You can apply for the Child Care Benefit in person or online. For online applications visit the Department of Human Services
- You will automatically be assessed and paid if you are eligible when you apply for the Child Care Benefit (even if you are assessed at a zero rate for the Child Care Benefit due to your family's income)

If you are eligible to receive the Rebate, it will be paid once Centrelink has received child care attendance details from your child care service/s

Uniforms

State School Relief Inc.

1/8 Johnston Court Dandenong South, VIC 3175, Tel: (03) 8769 8400

Principles can apply for assistance for families with serious financial difficulties through the Year 7 State School Relief scheme.

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/programs/health/ssryr7uniformsparents2016.pdf>

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/programs/health/ssryr7uniformsschools2016.pdf>

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/programs/health/ssryr7uniformsfaqsschools2016.pdf>

Assistance for Prep School uniforms

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/programs/health/ssrprepuniformparentsupport.pdf>

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/programs/health/ssrprepuniformsschoolfactsheet.pdf>

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/programs/health/ssrprepuniformschoolsupport.pdf>

Parents or carers with children in Victorian public schools may receive free or discounts on:

- New school uniforms
- New school shoes
- New text books
- Stationery including workbooks, pencils etc.
- Software, including access to some educational websites

Information on Independent, and Private School support for second hand school uniforms

<http://theuniformexchange.com.au/>

<http://www.schoolseconds.com.au/>

Cost support for families link

This covers a number of different options for families with school expenses to help make education more affordable.

http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/school/principals/spag/management/PP_Costsupportforfamilies.docx

State School Programs—Camps, Sports and excursion fund

Children who are eligible for the Camps, Sports and excursion fund automatically receive the uniform package. Parents should go on the website and apply **before** 2017

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/documents/about/programs/health/csefapplicationform.pdf>

Catholic Schools

Some of our schools offer scholarships for prospective students and those already attending their schools. You may contact your child's school for more information.

A school may offer financial assistance in paying fees it is worthwhile contacting the principle to discuss any assistance offered.

Home Based Educational Programs

The Home-Based Educational Support Program provides supplementary assistance to schools providing home-based programs to students with severe disabilities and comorbid fragile health. The program is available in exceptional circumstances where the student is unable to attend their enrolled school for an extended period of time due to the nature and impact of their disability and health needs.

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/school/teachers/teachingresources/diversity/hbespinfoforparents.docx>

Children with Special needs support

Autism inclusion schools list

- Mooroolbark East Primary School
- Newcomb Secondary College
- Trafalgar Primary School
- Ballarat High School
- Coburn Primary School
- Kennington Primary School
- Lucknow Primary School
- Wodonga South Primary School
- Mount Alexander College
- Officer Primary School
- Williamstown North Primary School
- Carwatha College Prep—Year 7
- Highton Primary School
- Kilberry Valley Primary School
- Moomba Park Primary School

Programs for children with disabilities

The Department provides an assessment service to support applications for the Program for Students with Disabilities in the categories of Intellectual Disability and Severe Language Disorder with Critical Educational Needs. Assessments on behalf of students under these two categories must be completed through this service.

Assessments Australia is contracted by the Department to manage and administer the assessment service. All assessments are conducted by qualified and fully registered psychologists and speech pathologists.

For more information about the roles and responsibilities of Assessments Australia, schools and Student Support Services in the assessment of students for the Program for Students with Disabilities, see below websites

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/needs/Pages/disabilityprogram.aspx>

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/diversity/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/diversity/Pages/programsforstudentswithdisabilities.aspx>

http://www.audit.vic.gov.au/reports_and_publications/latest_reports/2012-13/20120829-special-learning-need.aspx

Student Transport Program

Parents have primary responsibility for transporting their children to and from school however the Department offers different types of transport assistance to students residing in rural and regional Victoria. The Department also provides transport assistance to students attending a specialist school. Students residing in metropolitan Melbourne may be entitled to the Victorian Student Pass (VSP), which is administered by Public Transport Victoria (PTV).

<http://www.ptv.vic.gov.au/tickets/concessions/students>

Books, musical instruments, and sports equipment

Many schools have their own second hand program and it always pays to ask about this.

Timelines to apply for funding support

Just as each school has its own process and policies, each has its own unique deadlines. That said, the following will give you a general guide on timelines:

September or October in the year before you want to start in the new school: Begin your school search.

November or December: Begin the financial aid application process.

January or early February: Your admission applications are due.

January or February: Your financial aid applications are due.

Late February or early March: Schools send out admission decisions.

March or April: Schools send out financial aid decisions.

April, May, June: Schools require your final enrolment decision, tuition deposit to reserve a spot in the class

Referrals

Referrals to Assessments Australia may be made by phoning 03 9663 6622 or by email at psd-as@assessments.com.au

Schools should have relevant student information accessible when contacting the assessment service.

For more information, see: <https://www.assessments.com.au/psd-assessment-service/make-a-referral>