



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 Principal can apply for on your behalf. It is important to apply for any assistance before the school year commences. If your principal is not aware of the assistance on offer please contact PCA Families and we will assist you.

How to claim the Child Care Subsidy?

To get Child Care Subsidy (CCS) you must:

- care for a child 13 or younger who's not attending secondary school, unless an exemption applies
- use an approved child care service
- be responsible for paying the child care fees
- meet residency and immunisation requirements.

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

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/child-care-subsidy>

Uniforms

State School Relief Inc.

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

Principals can apply for assistance for families with serious financial difficulties for children starting Prep and Year 7 through the State School Relief scheme.

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/going-to-school/Pages/uniforms.aspx>

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/>

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

Each year the CSEF system is open for schools to enter applications from the start of term 1. Parents/carers wishing to apply for CSEF payments must submit their application form to the relevant school before the last day of term 2. <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>

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 principal 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. <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/learningneeds/Pages/homebased.aspx>

Children with Special needs support

Autism inclusion schools list <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/additional-needs/Pages/autism-school-support.aspx>

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

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/additional-needs/Pages/disability-school-support.aspx>

<https://www.audit.vic.gov.au/report/programs-students-special-learning-needs>

Program for Students with Disabilities in Victoria: Assessment service supporting schools

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>

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).

<https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au/tickets/myki/concessions-and-free-travel/children-and-students/school-students/>

Books, musical instruments, and sports equipment

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