

## Benefits for education and participation: Apply Now!

Due to the change in the law adopted on 01.01.2011 and the new "Strong Families Act 2019", benefits for education and participation for children and young people are paid by the Jobcenter in addition to the standard requirement. You must submit an application to the Jobcenter for these benefits. The benefits will not be granted without an application!

The same applies to those entitled to ongoing benefits under Chapters 3 and 4 of SGB XII, as well as recipients of housing benefit or child supplement and those entitled to ongoing benefits under the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act (AsylbLG). However, they must submit the application to the Office for Social Services.



According to Sections 28 to 30 of the Second Book of the German Social Code (SGB II) and Sections 34-34b of SGB XII, needs for education and participation in social and cultural life are taken into account separately for children, adolescents and young adults.

As a result of the Strong Families Act 2019, separate applications for school trips, school transportation, lunch costs and other participation benefits are no longer necessary.

In the case of benefits in accordance with SGB XII or AsylbLG, benefits are generally only granted from the beginning of the month in which the application is made.

For recipients of housing benefit or child benefit, this benefit applies from the date of application for housing benefit or child supplement. The benefits can therefore also be paid retroactively. This retroactive effect applies to all applications submitted from 1.8.2013.

The so-called needs for **education and participation** include various benefits. The benefits are provided in the form of vouchers or direct payments to the provider of the benefit or to the beneficiary.

**a)** In addition to school **trips lasting several days**, the actual costs of one-day school and daycare excursions are now also covered (§ 28 Para. 2 SGB II);

**b) School Basis Package** (§ 28 Abs. 3 SGB II):

The School Basis Package is regularly paid in two installments of €65 on February 1 and €130 on August 1 for the respective school semester to cover personal school needs.

**c) Assumption of school transport costs (§28 Para. 4 SGB II):** Students who attend the nearest school and cannot reach it by bike or on foot receive school transport costs if these are not covered by another body.

**d) Learning support:** From August 2019, students who are not directly at risk of failing their school-leaving certificate will also receive learning support. The need for learning support must be proven by a school confirmation of need for tutoring

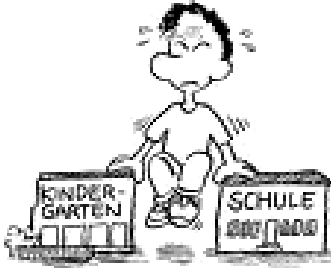
**Subsidy for lunchtime meals in schools/daycare centers:** the previous parents' own contribution for lunch will be abolished with the Strong Families Act from August 2019



**f)** Social and cultural participation: here you have a monthly budget of 15 euros from 1.8.2019 (saving is possible) for social/cultural participation for all beneficiaries under the age of 18, e.g..

- Membership fees in the areas of sports, games, culture and socializing
- Lessons in artistic subjects
- Guided cultural education activities
- Participation in vacation camps

This list is not exhaustive. Choose an activity, course, vacation camp or similar together with your child, find out about the costs and then submit the confirmation of membership or participation to the office. (A list of providers of other benefits of the education and participation package, e.g. clubs, can be found on the homepage of the Senator for Social Affairs).



The requirements for education and the benefits to be provided for pupils (i.e. all benefits with the exception of the benefits for social and cultural participation set out under f)) are only to be provided for persons

- ▶ who have not yet reached the age of 25,
- ▶ attend a general or vocational school and
- ▶ do not receive a training allowance.

### **Tipp:**

In addition to the benefits for education and participation, expenses for the purchase or loan of school books or equivalent workbooks that are required due to school regulations or school requirements can be covered (§ 21 Para. 6a SGB II)

*Please note that you must submit a written appeal against a decision by the Jobcenter within one month if you do not agree with the decision. Therefore, please come to us immediately after receiving a decision. We will be happy to support you*

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