

Department of **Education**
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Student Assistance Scheme (STAS) Guidelines



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STAS is one of the forms of financial assistance available to assist with the cost of school levies. The scheme provides assistance for low-income families towards the cost of levies for students enrolled from kindergarten through to year 12.

STAS is provided through school and college resourcing rather than payment direct to families.

In respect to each school sector STAS provides:

- Government Schools: full levies and stationary.
- Independent Schools: assistance available is provided at the discretion of the school and parents/guardians need to discuss with the school what assistance may be provided based on approval of eligibility for STAS.
- Catholic Sector Schools: directly assess eligibility for assistance to families and queries for assistance need to be directed to the relevant school.

1. Availability

The scheme is available to:

- Full-time students from kindergarten to year 12 in Government and registered non-Government schools whose parents/guardians meet the income test and have care of the student for a minimum of 50% of the time (as assessed by Centrelink);
- From 2015 Catholic sector schools will directly assess eligibility for assistance to families and queries for assistance need to be directed to the relevant school;
- Grandparents raising grandchildren; and
- Students who are in "Out of Home Care" through the Department of Health and Human Services, Child and Family Services Section.

2. Independent Students

- If you are living at home with your parents you are not considered to be an independent student under STAS eligibility requirements, even if you are over 18 and receiving youth allowance. Your parent(s) will need to apply for STAS naming you as a dependent.
- If you are under 18, but for legal or other reasons are considered to be an Independent Student by Centrelink, evidence will need to be provided.
- If you live independently from your parents, have your own income and can provide evidence of that income for the purposes of being assessed under the STAS means test, then you may apply in person.

3. Not Eligible

- Part-time secondary students (less than 600 contact hours).
- Catholic sector schools directly assess eligibility for assistance for families.
- Students in regular paid employment which is directly associated with their course (e.g. apprenticeships, traineeships).

- Non-residents of Tasmania, other than some visa holders (as per criteria).

4. Grandparents and grandchildren

- STAS is available to grandparents legally responsible for their grandchildren.
- Grandparents will need to complete a form and provide evidence of these arrangements.
- Grandparents receiving Centrelink benefits simply complete the Centrelink Reference Number section of the STAS application and attach a copy of their health care card/pension card.
- Grandparents who are not receiving Centrelink benefits will need to complete and sign a statutory declaration and attach this to their application.
- Statutory declarations are available at your local school, Australia Post offices, Service Tasmania Shops or [online](#).

5. Recipients

Funding for eligible applicants will be provided directly to their school or college.

6. Income Test

Income assessment is applied to parents/guardians of dependent students, and independent students applying for assistance under the scheme. Independent students are also required to provide evidence of their independent status. Details of the income test are included on the application form each year.

7. Enquiries and Applications

Application forms are available from Government and independent schools and colleges within Tasmania, the Department of Education and Service Tasmania Shops, or [online](#).

For general enquiries or assistance please contact the relevant school.

For specific enquiries regarding assistance completing the application or application procedures please contact:

Financial Assistance Services on 1800 816 057 or via email at stas@education.tas.gov.au

8. Related Documents

Documents are available from www.education.tas.gov.au (Search for Doc ID)

- Statutory Declaration (Doc ID: TASED-4-1257)
- Student Assistance Scheme Application (Doc ID: TASED-4-1256)

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