

DATE: November 12, 2025

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS Letter No.: 25-24
ALL COUNTY WELFARE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS
ALL COUNTY HEALTH EXECUTIVES
ALL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY MEDS LIAISONS

SUBJECT: 2026 STUDENT EARNED INCOME EXCLUSION (Reference
ACWDL [25-17](#))

Purpose:

The purpose of this All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) is to provide counties with an update regarding the Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE) amount in accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 22, [Section 50551](#), effective January 1, 2026.

Effective January 1, 2026, the SEIE is \$2,410 per month, up to an annual maximum of \$9,730.

Note: The SEIE, amount for January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, was \$2,350 per month, up to an annual maximum of \$9,460.

Background

Effective April 1, 2005, [Section 432](#) of the Social Security Protection Act extended SEIE to all individuals on a record who are working students under the age of 22, including those who meet the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program's definition of a child, as established in [Federal Code of Regulations, title 20, section 416.1101](#). SEIE figures are adjusted yearly, based on the current cost-of-living adjustment (COLA).

Eligibility Requirements for the Student Earned Income Exclusion

In California, to be eligible for the student earned income deduction, the student must be in the Medi-Cal Family Budget Unit (MFBU) of an individual who is aged, blind, or disabled.

Additionally, deductions will be applied to the earned income of each student who is:

- Is under the age of 22

- Is regularly attending school, as defined by the Social Security Administration (SSA) as:
 - The student is enrolled in one or more classes at a college or university for at least 8 hours per semester or quarter, or
 - The student is enrolled in a training course that prepares them for the workforce for at least 15 hours per week when the course requires practical application of skills. If the course does not require practical skills, the attendance requirement is 12 hours per week

The monthly and annual student earned income deduction limits shall be in accordance with the table below.

Maximum Monthly and Annual Exclusion Limits

Maximum Monthly and Annual Exclusion Limits for Year	Monthly Exclusion	Maximum exclusion for calendar year
2026	\$2,410	\$9,730
2025	\$2,350	\$9,460
2024	\$2,290	\$9,230
2023	\$2,220	\$8,950
2022	\$2,040	\$8,230
2021	\$1,930	\$7,770
2020	\$1,900	\$7,670
2019	\$1,870	\$7,550

Maximum Monthly and Annual Exclusion Limits for Year	Monthly Exclusion	Maximum exclusion for calendar year
2018	\$1,820	\$7,350
2017	\$1,790	\$7,200
2016	\$1,780	\$7,180
2015	\$1,780	\$7,180
2014	\$1,750	\$7,060
2013	\$1,730	\$6,960
2012	\$1,700	\$6,840
2011	\$1,640	\$6,600
2010	\$1,640	\$6,600
2009	\$1,640	\$6,600
2008	\$1,550	\$6,240
2007	\$1,510	\$6,100
2006	\$1,460	\$5,910
2005	\$1,410	\$5,670
2004	\$1,370	\$5,520

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Maximum Monthly and Annual Exclusion Limits for Year	Monthly Exclusion	Maximum exclusion for calendar year
2003	\$1,340	\$5,410
2002	\$1,320	\$5,340
2001	\$1,290	\$5,200
2000 and earlier	\$400	\$1,620

If you have any questions regarding the information provided in this letter, please contact the Non-MAGI unit at NonMAGIInbox@dhcs.ca.gov. County questions regarding policy guidance should be sent to MCED-Policy@dhcs.ca.gov.

Original Signed By,

Theresa Hasbrouck
Branch Chief
Policy Development Branch
Medi-Cal Eligibility Division