



2026 BOARDING AWAY FROM HOME ALLOWANCE

INFORMATION

The Western Australian Department of Education makes available a student Boarding Away from Home Allowance (BAHA) to families with children who are attending primary and/or secondary school.

The allowance for 2026 for the full year is \$1,461 subject to confirmation that you have received the Australian Government Services Australia (Centrelink) Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Boarding Allowance or Second Home Allowance for the whole of the year.

The payment is available on a pro-rata basis for those who have only received the AIC allowance for part of the year, but will not be paid for boarding periods covering less than one month.

Applications must be completed annually.

ELIGIBILITY

The BAHA allowance is only available to parents/guardians who permanently reside in Western Australia, and have qualified for the Centrelink AIC Boarding Allowance or Second Home Allowance and have children who attend a primary and/or secondary school located in Western Australia and is living away from the primary family residence. Students enrolled full time at a tertiary institution (e.g. TAFE) are not eligible.

To be eligible to receive the BAHA payment, you must supply proof with your application that you have prior approval from Centrelink to receive the AIC Boarding Allowance or Second Home Allowance.

Confirmation of Eligibility (Important)

The applicant is required to provide a photocopy of a statement/letter for the AIC Boarding Allowance or Second Home Allowance that you will have received from Centrelink with the application.

The applicant must be the parent/guardian who is legally responsible for the student's care, welfare and development and whose name appears on the AIC advice received from Centrelink.

Applications that do not comply with these requirements will be returned for correction.

From time to time, the Department will conduct random audits to ensure applicants meet the eligibility guidelines.

APPLYING

Please complete the attached application form and return it to the Department of Education as soon as

possible along with the supporting documentation which shows your Centrelink AIC Boarding Allowance or Second Home Allowance entitlement.

Please use a separate application form for each student.

Personal information collected will only be used for the purpose of managing the Boarding Away from Home Allowance. The Department will not disclose your personal information for any other reason.

PROCESSING

In early Term 4, we will verify AIC payments for the remainder of the year through the enrolment status of the student with their relevant boarding provider. When this is acknowledged, the payment process commences.

Should your details change at any time during the year, please notify the Department of Education.

PAYMENTS

Although applications may be submitted earlier in the year please be aware that payments are not made until the fourth term of each year.

In cases where a student attends a Residential College (i.e. Albany, Broome, City Beach, Esperance, Geraldton, Merredin, Moora, Narrogin, Northam); or where a student attends a public WA College of Agriculture (i.e. Cunderdin, Denmark, Harvey, Morawa, Narrogin), the payment will be sent directly to the boarding provider.

Where the student attends another boarding facility, the payment may be sent to either the boarding provider or directly to the parent.

Please indicate your payment preference on the application form. Payment is made subject to all application requirements being met.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Financial Planning and Resourcing Directorate
Department of Education
151 Royal Street
EAST PERTH WA 6004

Telephone: (08) 9264 4516

Email: student.allowances@education.wa.edu.au

**The closing date for applications is
Friday, 27 November 2026.**

