# School Saving Bonus

Information for government school leaders and business managers

### About the School Saving Bonus

The School Saving Bonus will provide $400 in one-off support for Victorian school-aged students in Term 4, 2024, for use on 2025 school costs.

Families can choose how they want to spend the School Saving Bonus. It can be used towards 2025 school costs, which may include:

* camps, trips, excursions and incursions
* swimming and sporting programs
* outdoor education programs
* graduations
* school uniforms
* textbooks.

The School Saving Bonus will be in addition to existing and continuing means-tested supports for Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) and the Affordable School Uniforms Program.

### School Saving Bonus student eligibility

The School Saving Bonus is available for parents and carers of each Victorian government school student from Prep to Year 12 in 2025, except for full-fee international students, home schooled students, TAFE students and students attending kindergarten in 2025.

The school that a student is enrolled at for the 2025 school year will receive the School Saving Bonus. This includes Prep enrolments for 2025 and students transferring between government schools (future students).

Students completing Year 12 in 2024 will not receive the bonus.

### Actions for schools

Schools can help prepare parents and carers for the School Saving Bonus by distributing templated communications to families as soon as possible.

The communications to parents and carers includes information about the School Saving Bonus, as well as 2 key actions for parents and carers required by **18 October 2024:**

* Parents and carers must ensure their email address and phone number are up to date with their school. This is the information in CASES21.
* Parents and carers must ensure their enrolment is up to date if their child is starting at a new school, or Year 7 or Prep (Foundation), in 2025.

More information is available via the [School Saving Bonus Parent and Carer information sheet](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/SSB_information_government_school_parents_carers.docx).

Translations of the Parent and Carer information sheet will also be made available within the next few weeks on the School Saving Bonus website.

### Implementation of the School Saving Bonus

Every effort has been made to minimise the School Saving Bonus implementation load for schools, with the Department of Education helping distribute funds for the School Saving Bonus.

The department will continue to share School Saving Bonus updates directly with your school.

In addition, parents and carers can expect to receive an email directly from the department in late October confirming their email address for their $400 bonus.

### Accessing the School Saving Bonus

From 18 November 2024, the department will deposit funds into school high yield bank accounts and provide remittance advice, in line with standard procedures. Once the funds are available in your school account, families will be able to start accessing the School Saving Bonus.

### School Saving Bonus

The $400 School Saving Bonus will be sent directly from the department via email to parents and carers in November. Families can choose how they spend their $400, via the School Saving Bonus online system. The online system will give parents the option to spend their $400 bonus with school-approved uniforms and textbook suppliers, or to allocate funds to school activities (or a mixture of both).

If a school does not have a school uniform, or parents would like to purchase other school items, they can do so via State Schools’ Relief.

Any amount allocated to uniforms or textbooks will have an expiry date of 30 June 2025.

After this date, any leftover funds will revert to the student’s school as activities credit.

Uniform and textbook suppliers will invoice schools and payments will be made as per current creditor processes.

### More information

More information about the School Saving Bonus is available via PAL at: https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/school-saving-bonus/policy.

For any questions from your school on the School Saving Bonus, please email school.saving.bonus@education.vic.gov.au.