

The Affordable School Uniform Program

Program background

Each year, State Schools' Relief (SSR) provides tens of thousands of children with school clothing, shoes and other essential items. For the first time SSR has received government funding so that it can help more families needing financial assistance, and ensure no one is left behind. As part of the Victorian government's uniform expansion program, every Year 7 (in 2016) government school student who is a recipient of the Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF) automatically qualifies for a free uniform pack.

Eligibility requirements for CSEF can be found at www.education.vic.gov.au/csef.

What's included in the uniform pack?

The uniform pack includes all basic uniform items needed to start secondary school (approx. value \$225):

- Jumper x 1
- PE shirt x 1
- PE shorts x 1
- For girls: a dress OR pants x 1 (or shorts or trousers) and shirt x 1 (long or short sleeve)
- For boys: shorts or trousers x 1 and a shirt x 1 (long or short sleeve)

How can parents apply for the packs?

The 2015 CSEF recipients can apply for a pack from 1 December 2015 by contacting the secondary school where their child will attend. Secondary schools are required to make applications on behalf of parents at www.ssr.net.au/schools. Parents who missed this year's CSEF applications or were ineligible in 2015, can apply in 2016. The 2016 program will be promoted via school newsletters and websites.

What if parents have already purchased their child's uniform?

Eligible parents who have already purchased their child's uniform for 2016 are entitled to a winter package available next year.

Can parents who are ineligible for the Camp, Sports and Excursion Fund or who have children in other year levels receive assistance from SSR?

Yes. Applications for parents requiring financial assistance for uniforms, text books or shoes are encouraged via the regular SSR services – www.ssr.net.au/schools. SSR only responds to requests from schools (not from parents directly). Parents are encouraged to talk to their school principal, assistant principal or student welfare coordinator about their situation and they will assess their eligibility.

Terms and conditions

- Only CSEF recipients are eligible for the uniform packs.
- Each student is eligible for a single uniform pack.
- A voucher is dispatched electronically to the school, uniform shop or uniform supplier on approval. The school will provide the voucher to the parent/student to present at the uniform retailer (and not at SSR).
- The order is valid for 75 days from date of issue.
- Once expired, a new application must be lodged. Expired vouchers cannot be redeemed.
- Each voucher specifies the individual items funded by SSR.
- No change to the items can be made unless through the school.
- Changes made in store will not be honoured by SSR.
- The maximum voucher value is \$225 and any short fall will not be covered by SSR.

More information

Parents: For CSEF application details please visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef