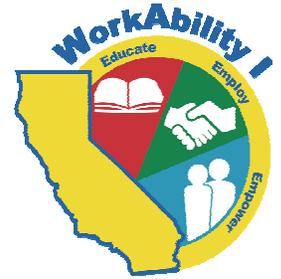




WORKABILITY WORKS!

San Juan USD WorkAbility
5325 Garfield Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95841
916-979-8610 www.sanjuan.edu/Workability



“Working with all stakeholders, the WorkAbility program ensures that SJUSD students with disabilities gain the confidence, skills, career awareness, and work experience necessary for transition and postsecondary success.”

SJUSD WorkAbility Newsletter

February 2016

A Message from our Administrator

Families often ask about the impact of student wages on social security benefits. This month's newsletter includes a packet of information that explains how to report wages, and how wages potentially impact SSI benefits.

WorkAbility1 Grant Feedback is needed to write our 2016/17 WorkAbility grant. Interested teachers, student workers, parents, and community partners are invited to participate in this process by attending the SJUSD WorkAbility Advisory meeting scheduled on Tuesday March 29, 3:30PM at Laurel Ruff Transition School. A survey will also be posted on our website and Schoology group.

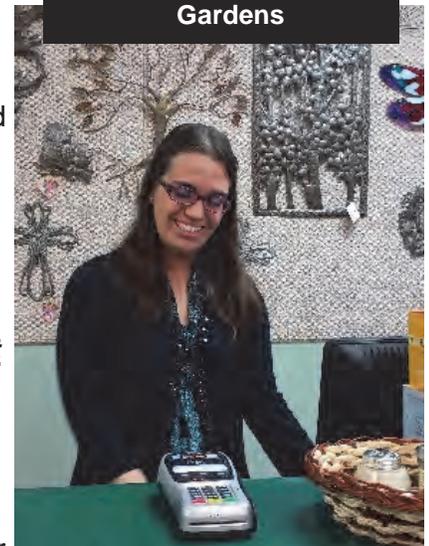
SJUSD WorkAbility Schoology Group If you aren't already a member please use the access code 7J6Z9-7NX4B to join our SJUSD WorkAbility group.

Department of Rehabilitation Transition Partnership Program 'TPP' contract TPP only has a few slots left for new referrals. Graduating students who need immediate **DOR** support to find a job should connect with our SJUSD TPP team immediately. See the attached flyer.

Thanks to all who support our programs! 'WorkAbility Works'!

Julia Arreguin, Ed.D., SJUSD WorkAbility Administrator

Robin at Wild Birds & Gardens



Robin Completes OJT

Robin is completing her OJT (On the Job Training) program at Wild Birds & Gardens. Through the OJT program, Robin is being paid to do her training as a stock clerk. Robin gained valuable experiences in providing customer service, operating the cash register, do exchanges, price labeling, and stocking products. Robin's employer is very happy with her work looks forward to hiring her as a part-time stock clerk. Way To Go Robin!!!!

WorkAbility Welcomes La Entrada!

Youth Employment Tech Donna and Job Developer Sandy began working with students from La Entrada. We want to Welcome Isaiah, Lyric, Justin, Deven, Jacob, and Carlos. Fallas Discount Store was a popular choice among La Entrada students as well as Walgreens and Rite Aid. One student really likes animals and is hoping to be placed at Petsmart. The students will begin training and paid work as early as February 8th, after they complete their employment packets. WorkAbility is excited to see La Entrada students become skilled workers!

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Rocky

Success Story

Laurel Ruff Transition School student and WorkAbility program participant Rocky Robello really enjoys working at Mountain Mike's. Rocky began his WorkAbility career at Best Buy as a high school student at Mesa Verde. Then over the summer Rocky continued his training and paid work at Walgreen's.

Rocky's Performance Evaluations all say he shows up on time, is enthusiastic and eager, is courteous and considerate, and Pays attention to detail. Rocky said he learned to be a good worker from his WorkAbility teacher's and job site managers.

The owners of Mountain Mike's really enjoy Rocky. They say he is very smart, fast at folding the pizza boxes and rarely misses work. Rocky is learning to make pizzas, he does bus duty, and delivers the food to the tables. Rocky enjoys his work, the customers and his coworkers.

Rocky says, "I get to make pizza's now and I like helping the people."

Pre-Employment Skills Classes

Pre-Employment Skills classes for the Spring semester are up and running at Rio Americano, El Camino, and San Juan. The students will begin paid work experience in early February.

El Camino Highlights

As well as the Pre-Employment Skills students, we are meeting with students for individual placement.

San Juan Highlights

We are seeing a record number of students working at San Juan this year! As well as the Pre-Employment Skills students we have individual workers. Go San Juan!

Rio Americano Highlights

As well as the Pre-Employment Skills students, we are meeting with students for individual placement.

Casa Roble Highlights

New group of student taking both Econ and Career Explorations back to back for term 3 & 4. We have 3 students placed at Ace Hardware, 4 at Walgreens, and 3 at CVS.

Mesa Verde Highlights

New Pre-Employment Skills students this semester. 3 are working at Grocery Outlet, 4 at Rite Aid, and 4 at Burlington Coat Factory. These students will be working twice a week until the end of this school year.

Mira Loma Highlights

Student Geneva went shopping this week with Sandy and Jen to spend her \$150 allotment of DOR TPP business clothing funds. She will be the best dressed Courtesy Clerk at Raley's!



Geneva

Community Business Partners



SSI Telephone Wage Reporting



What Is Monthly SSI Telephone Wage Reporting?

SSA has made it easier for SSI beneficiaries, deemors and representative payees to report monthly wages by introducing the SSI Telephone Wage Reporting System. You may report wages without having to mail pay slips or contacting our office.

Why Do I Need To Report My Wages?

Reporting your wages each month helps ensure that your SSI payment is timely and accurate. If you receive SSI, the law requires that you report any income you receive, which includes your wages. If you have a representative payee to help you with your money, then your representative payee must report your earnings.

How Do I Report My Wages to Social Security?

- Each month you must call from the **1st to the 6th** day of the month.

SSI Wage Reporter Phone Number

1-866-772-0953

- The program will ask you for your date of birth, name, and Social Security Number.
- If you are the Representative Payee the program will also ask for your date of birth, name, and Social Security Number.
- You must report the TOTAL amount of gross wages for the wage earner. Gross wages are the amount of pay before taxes and other deductions.

When Do I call to Report My Wages to Social Security?

- **You must call to report the wages from the 1st to the 6th day of the month after you received them.** For example, you must call with all your January pay stubs from February 1st to February 6th. You also must report to us if you start or stop work.

Reporting your wages by calling 1-866-772-0953 each month helps us pay you the correct amount of SSI benefits and may prevent you from being overpaid or allow us to pay you more SSI.

SSI ONLY EMPLOYMENT SUPPORTS

Earned Income Exclusion

SSI eligible

Do we count all your earned income when we figure your Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payment?

We do not count the first \$65 of the earnings you receive in a month, plus one-half of the remaining earnings. This means that we count less than one-half of your earnings when we figure your SSI payment amount.

We apply this exclusion in addition to the \$20 general income exclusion. We apply the \$20 general income exclusion first to any unearned income that you may receive.

The following table shows two examples of how we apply the general income exclusion and the earned income exclusions.

Examples of the Earned Income Exclusion

Situation 1

Ed receives \$361 SSDI each month, wages of \$289 each month, and no other income.

\$361	SSDI
- 20	General income exclusion
<u>\$341</u>	Countable unearned income

\$289	Earned income
- 65	Earned income exclusion
<u>\$224</u>	
- 112	½ remaining earnings
<u>\$112</u>	Countable earned income

\$341	Countable unearned income
+ 112	Countable earned income
<u>\$453</u>	Total countable income

\$733	2015 Federal Benefit Rate
-453	Total countable income
<u>\$280</u>	SSI payment

Available Income

\$361	SSDI
+289	Wages
+280	SSI Payment
<u>\$930</u>	Total Monthly Income

Situation 2

Ed receives wages of \$450 each month, no SSDI, and \$13 of unearned income from another source.

\$0	SSDI
\$ 13	Other unearned income
- 20	General income exclusion
<u>\$ 7</u>	Remaining general income exclusion

\$450	Earned income
- 7	Remaining general income exclusion
<u>\$443</u>	
- 65	Earned income exclusion
<u>\$378</u>	

-189	½ remaining earnings
<u>\$189</u>	Total countable income

\$733	2015 Federal Benefit Rate
-189	Total countable income
<u>\$544</u>	SSI payment

Available Income

\$450	Wages
+ 13	Unearned income
+544	SSI Payment
<u>\$1,007</u>	Total Monthly Income

How does the SEIE help you?

If you are under age 22 and regularly attending school, we do not count up to \$1,780 of earned income per month when we figure your Supplemental Security Income payment amount. The maximum yearly exclusion is \$7,180. These amounts are for the year 2015; we usually adjust these figures each year based on the cost-of-living.

What is the definition of “regularly attending school?”

“Regularly attending school” means that you take one or more courses of study and attend classes:

- In a college or university for at least 8 hours a week; or
- In grades 7-12 for at least 12 hours a week; or
- In a training course to prepare for employment for at least 12 hours a week (15 hours a week if the course involves shop practice); or
- For less time than indicated above for reasons beyond the student’s control, such as illness.

Does home schooling qualify?

If you are home-taught, you may be considered “regularly attending school” if:

- You are instructed in grades 7-12 for at least 12 hours a week; and
- The instruction is in accordance with a home school law of the state or other jurisdiction in which you reside.

If you are home-taught because of a disability, you may be considered “regularly attending school” by:

- Studying a course or courses given by a school (grades 7-12), college, university or government agency; and
- Having a home visitor or tutor who directs the study.

How do we apply the income exclusion?

We apply the SEIE before the general income exclusion or the earned income exclusion.

2015 Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE) example:

Joan is a student who receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and is eligible for SEIE. That means we can exclude a greater amount of Joan's earnings when we figure her SSI benefit amount. The example below includes the amounts of Joan's monthly earnings that we do not count each month subject to the monthly and yearly SEIE exclusion amounts. Remember the 2015 monthly SEIE exclusion is \$1,780 and the annual SEIE exclusion is \$7,180. In November, we reach the yearly excludable amount of \$7,180.

Use the below table for the example provided to gain an understanding of how the SEIE process works and how Joan reached her yearly excludable amount.

Use the table starting with the month of June and step through each row until you reach the last row. Complete the first column then repeat for each column until you reach the last column.

	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Monthly Earnings	\$1,780	\$1,780	\$1,780	\$870	\$840	\$800	\$800
Monthly SEIE exclusion (lesser of \$1780 or remaining annual exclusion amount)	\$1,780	\$1,780	\$1,780	\$870	\$840	\$130	\$800
Annual Student Earned Income Exclusion \$7,180	\$7,180 - 1,780 \$5,400	\$5,400 - 1,780 \$3,620	\$3,620 - 1,780 \$1,840	\$1,840 - 870 \$970	\$970 - 840 \$130	\$0	\$0
Monthly Countable Earned Income (monthly earnings minus SEIE exclusion)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$670 (\$800-130)	\$800
Earned Income (countable earned income minus general and earned income exclusions divided by 2)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$292.50 (\$670-20-65 =\$585/2)	\$357.50 (\$800-20-65 =\$715/2)
Monthly benefit amount	\$733	\$733	\$733	\$733	\$733	\$440	\$376



It's not too late to complete a referral to 'TPP' San Juan's Transition Partnership Program with the Department of Rehabilitation. A limited number of slots in this program are still available. Graduating students who need immediate assistance finding a job should contact us immediately.

FYI - Support will also be available during the summer.

Ask your school's WorkAbility staff about the referral process, or contact Larry Lim our TPP Job Developer (see info below).



SJUSD WorkAbility & CA Department of Rehabilitation Transition Partnership Program

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Phone (916)-979-8610 Fax (916) 979-8612

Shelley Ellinghouse, Director of Special Education
Julia Arreguin, Ed.D., SJUSD WorkAbility Administrator

TPP – Transition Partnership Program

Transitional Partnership Program (TPP), is a program that “bridges” WorkAbility with services available from the California Department of Rehabilitation(DOR). TPP students participate in a monthly “job club” which addresses resume building, interview techniques and work-readiness; Job Club is part of the schedule while in High School. After graduation, our services continue while the student is a client of the DOR.



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