

Solutions, Strategies, Answers

Newsletter of the 18 Social Security Administration offices in
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School Days are Coming ... Here's a Primer on Benefits Involving Students



Being a student can come into play in two situations where a young adult is receiving benefits under either the Social Security program or the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program.

Social Security ... Children of retired or disabled beneficiaries who remain full-time students at age 18 are entitled to benefits until they reach age 19 or complete their secondary (*grade 12 or below*) education, whichever occurs first. Children with a deceased parent who worked long enough would also qualify. For all non-students, benefits stop at age 18.

Benefits will stop before reaching age 19 if the young adult either stops attending school or reduces attendance below full-time. Benefits also stop if the student marries.

[Students \(ssa.gov\)](#)

SSI ... Under this needs-based program, any income (such as from work) normally reduces a recipient's benefit. However, the Student Earned Income Exclusion allows a disability recipient to have some of their earnings excluded from countable income if the recipient is under age 22 and regularly attending school. In 2022, up to \$8,230 of gross earnings can be excluded. The allowable amount increases each year.

[SSI Spotlight on Student Earned Income Exclusion \(ssa.gov\)](#)



With Social Security, Labors Are Never Lost

One of William Shakespeare's comedies is *Love's Labour's Lost*. Well, I'm not certain why the title is such, but it got me thinking that with the Social Security program, you always get credit for your earnings; nothing is ever "lost." And with Labor Day almost upon us, there's no better time to reflect on one's lifetime of work and how it results in your retirement benefit.

Qualifying for Retirement ... When you work and pay Social Security (FICA) taxes, you earn "credits" that you need to be insured for benefits. Today, people need 40 credits, which equates to 10 years of work. However, be aware that in figuring your benefit, we use your 35 highest earnings years. We look at your lifetime of labor; the longer you work and the more you earn, the higher the benefit.

Retirement Age ... The earliest age you can collect is 62. However, for an unreduced benefit, you must wait until you reach your Full Retirement Age, which is determined by your birth year. People born during 1943-54 have 66 as their FRA. After that, FRA rises gradually, with anyone born 1960 or later having 67 as their full age. Also, if you don't take your benefits until after FRA, your benefit increases at an eight percent annual rate; however, the benefit increase stops the month you turn 70. Also, keep in mind that if you want to collect while working, there is an earnings limit if you are under FRA.

For More ... Go to [Learn About Retirement Benefits | SSA](#)

Some Trivia for Your Labor Day Party

<i>Love's Labour's Lost</i>	written in the 1590s
Labor Day	became a federal holiday in 1894
Social Security	signed into law in 1935



As the Season Fades, Relax with a COLA ... Or at Least the Thought of It

We say it every year ... *Where did the summer go?* But even though we want to squeeze out every last bit, it might be time to look ahead to the wonders of autumn. And what better way to enjoy the thought of fall than by likewise thinking of a refreshing COLA? Yes, the announcement of the 2023 Social Security Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) is less than two months away!

The COLA is based on increases in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). It is determined and published by the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The 2023 COLA will be based on the increase in the third quarter (July-August-September) average CPI-W for 2022 compared to the same quarter in 2021.

Earlier this year Social Security's annual Trustees Report estimated the COLA would be about 3.8 percent. However, more recent economic data now points to a much higher COLA.

The official announcement of the 2023 COLA will take place on October 13. Nothing is definite until then. However, as of this printing, the data indicates the COLA to be about 8.8 percent. But the CPI-W numbers at the end of September will determine the actual COLA.

In January 2022 Social Security beneficiaries and SSI recipients saw their benefits increase by 5.9 percent. That was the biggest increase since 1982, when the COLA was 7.4 percent. In 1980 the COLA increased 14.3 percent, and in 1981 it rose 11.2 percent, the only time that COLAs have risen double digits since the current calculation system was put into place in 1975.

See more information on COLAS on our website at:
[CPI-W data and COLA estimates \(ssa.gov\)](#)



Summer Reading Assignments

Granted, you'd rather be at the beach frolicking in the surf with your best buds. But you know there are always assigned readings for the summer. Get cracking with the newest publications posted on our website:

Fact Sheet: Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

Overview of the benefit, work requirements and how to apply.

How State and Local Government Employees are Covered by Social Security and Medicare

Learn why some employees are covered only by their public pensions, while others only have Social Security. And why some have both.

Getting a Replacement Social Security Card

Information aimed at advocates, social service agencies and other third parties. Explains how to help clients get a replacement SSN card.

You can see all our publications at: [Publications | SSA](#)

The 24-Month Waiting Period for Medicare

Social Security disability beneficiaries have to wait 24 months after their initial entitlement to get Medicare. Of course, this has long been of concern to the disability community. The Senate Finance Committee report that accompanied the legislation to originally provide Medicare to the disabled explained that the waiting period would:

- Help to keep programs costs within reasonable bounds;
- Avoid overlapping private health insurance protection, such as when a worker with a disability may continue group health insurance after the onset of the disability;
- Minimize administrative problems that might arise when the appeals process delays entitlement, *and*
- Ensure that Medicare protection is available only to beneficiaries whose disabilities have proven to be severe and long lasting.

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