

FACT SHEET FOR FAMILIES: HELP WITH SCHOOL COSTS IN ACT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BACKGROUND

The ACT Education Directorate is committed to providing assistance to ensure that all children and young people have the opportunity to access and participate in the full range of educational programs and activities that address their educational and wellbeing needs. From time to time families may experience stressors in their life that can impact on their ability to meet the costs of schooling. This fact sheet has been developed to assist and encourage you to access the supports we have in place should you need them.

WHAT SUPPORTS ARE AVAILABLE?

There are a number of options for you if you are finding the costs of schooling a challenge. You can contact your school directly and have a conversation with a staff member about your situation. If it's better for you, you could also have a relative, caseworker, friend or advocate make contact on your behalf. You can also contact the Education Directorate to find out what other supports are available to you ETDStudentWellbeing@act.gov.au

Secondary Bursary Scheme –

\$750 per annum payment is available to families with low incomes who have students in year 7 to year 10 to assist with the costs of schooling. For further information, please ring the Bursary Administrator on (02) 62058262. More information can be found at <https://www.education.act.gov.au/support-for-our-students/financial-assistance>

School based supports-

All ACT public schools are resourced to assist students to access everyday essentials

This provision forms part of public education's core objective of making access to education equitable for all students, regardless of personal circumstances. The types of things schools can help with include school uniforms, food, book and stationery packs, transport, excursions and camps.

Schools can also provide assistance through the provision of personal hygiene products, such as deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes and sanitary hygiene products for any student who may need them. Schools make products available in multiple locations in the school including the front office, the first aid, school nurse and/or student services rooms, promoting discreet access to these products.

MORE INFORMATION

Further information on supports services in schools can be found at:

<https://www.education.act.gov.au/support-for-our-students/student-health-and-wellbeing/support-services-in-schools>

You can also contact Student Wellbeing via email at ETDStudentWellbeing@act.gov.au

OTHER ACT GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

The ACT Government has a range of discounts, rebates and subsidies to make sure support is there when you need it. The following website provides information about the ways we can help relieve cost of living pressures in areas like housing, transport, bills and dental care.

<https://www.act.gov.au/assistance>