

NSW DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

# BOARDING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ISOLATED STUDENTS

## 2009 INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FORM

The Boarding Scholarships for Isolated Students (BSIS) scheme has been established to assist students from rural areas who are disadvantaged by a low family income and geographic isolation.

### ***General Conditions of Eligibility***

1. Students must live in New South Wales (The student's primary carer must be a permanent resident of NSW).
2. Families must meet the income test requirements for the NSW Living Away From Home Allowance (LAFHA).
3. Students must be in circumstances where they need to board away from home to attend the nominated government secondary school. (The family home is geographically isolated and this severely affects the student's access to secondary schooling.)
4. Students must be in Years 7 to 12.
5. Applicants must submit an application form by the due date and supply all necessary supporting documents.
6. Different categories of scholarship are available to meet the needs of:
  - Students who wish to attend and board at a government Agricultural High School. Applicants in this category must have been accepted for enrolment, or be eligible for enrolment at the school in terms of the Department's enrolment policy for agricultural high schools
  - OR
  - Students who wish to attend another NSW government specialist secondary school that conducts separate selection procedures, in order to pursue a special talent, interest or educational need, and who would need to board away from home to do so. Applicants in this category must have been accepted for enrolment, or be eligible for enrolment at the school in terms of the Department's enrolment policy for specialist high schools and the requirements of the individual school
  - OR
  - Students who are in circumstances where they have to board at a school term hostel to access a government secondary school.

Applications from families or students in receipt of AIC, ABSTUDY or Youth Allowance from Centrelink will not be considered for BSIS. Selection committees will take into account the amount of other educational assistance received by families when allocating priorities to applications.

Scholarships are valued at \$4100 in 2009.

## **Applications**

The completed form should be completed and forwarded to:

Allowances Officer  
Rural & Distance Education  
PO Box 717  
BATHURST NSW 2795

For assistance contact phone: 02 6334 8075 Fax: 02 6334 8069

Or from the website: <http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/studentsupport/scholarshipsmore/studentassistance.php>

## **Closing Date**

Applications will close **Friday 6 March 2009** and are to be sent to the address above.

## **The Selection Process**

Scholarship applications will be subject to a selection process, involving a central scholarship committee. The committee will also make recommendations about the distribution of the scholarships over Years 7 to 12.

Each application must have attached documentation to support eligibility claims. The application form sets out examples of evidence that would be acceptable for each section. To establish family income each application **must** have attached a copy of the 2007/2008 assessment notice from the Australian Tax Office (or other acceptable document).

## **Renewal of Application**

Scholarships are normally awarded for two school years, that is, for Stage 4 (Yrs 7/8), Stage 5 (Yrs 9/10) and Stage 6 (Yrs 11/12). Scholarships will be reviewed for all students as they complete Stages 4 and 5 (that is, at the end of Yrs 8 and 10). Where families can provide evidence that their circumstances have not changed, the scholarship will be continued for the next stage. Should a change to the student's family circumstances affect their eligibility for a scholarship during any period of a scholarship's tenure, the scholarship will be reviewed. If a scholarship is withdrawn because of a change in family circumstances, a *pro rata* arrangement will be used to determine the value of the scholarship paid. It is the responsibility of the scholarship holder to notify the Allowances Officer, Rural and Distance Education of any change.

## **The Income Test**

Adjusted family income level must not exceed \$52,548 for the year ending 30 June 2008. For an example see page 8, Adjusted Family Income.

## **Fees**

Tuition at government schools is free, but the schools may charge varying amounts to cover services such as library, textbooks and sport. Fees to cover boarding cost are charged in the three Agricultural Boarding High Schools.

## **Specialist Government Secondary Schools**

For the purposes of this scholarship scheme, a specialist government secondary school is a government secondary school that conducts separate selection procedures: selective high schools, agricultural high schools, performing arts high schools and sports high schools. The schools have specific placement criteria that will determine whether or not they can accept your child. Some schools also have special entry requirements. If you are seeking enrolment for the first time at a specialist school, we suggest you contact the school to obtain details of their placement criteria and any special entry requirements.

## **Replacing Another Scholarship With a Boarding Scholarship For Isolated Students (BSIS)**

Some students who were in receipt of an Agricultural High Schools Boarding Scholarship (AHSBS) or an Access Scholarship for Isolated Students (ASIS) in 2008 may be eligible for BSIS and can access an increased benefit by surrendering their existing scholarship(s) and taking up the BSIS.

## **OTHER SCHEMES PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR BOARDING STUDENTS**

There are two government schemes which provide financial assistance to students living away from home to attend a secondary school.

### SECONDARY STUDENTS LIVING AWAY FROM HOME ALLOWANCE (LAFHA)

This scheme is administered by the NSW Department of Education and Training. The allowance is reviewed annually. For 2009 it is \$1,227 per annum with an additional \$288 for Year 11-12 students if they are geographically isolated.

This allowance is subject to an income test. The adjusted Family Taxable Income for the year ending 30 June 2008 must not exceed \$52,548 to be eligible. Students who qualify for BSIS may also be eligible for LAFHA if they meet distance or other conditions.

Enquiries may be directed to the  
Allowances Officer  
Secondary Students Living Away From Home Allowance  
Rural & Distance Education  
PO Box 717  
BATHURST NSW 2795  
PHONE: 02 6334 8075.

### ASSISTANCE FOR ISOLATED CHILDREN SCHEME (AIC)

AIC is a Commonwealth government scheme administered by Centrelink that targets students who are geographically isolated and who do not have reasonable daily access to an appropriate government school.

Information regarding this scheme may be obtained by calling Centrelink on 13 2318.

In addition, students may be able to obtain assistance from **Youth Allowance** (Ph. 13 2490) or **ABSTUDY** (Ph. 13 2317), both of which are administered by the Commonwealth.

***BSIS may be paid in addition to LAFHA, but students who qualify for Commonwealth allowances are not eligible for BSIS.***

### **PRIVACY STATEMENT**

The personal information provided on this form entitled *Boarding Scholarships for Isolated Students (BSIS) 2009, Application Form* is being collected for the purpose of prioritising applications for BSIS scholarships to support students required to board in order to attend a NSW Government School in 2009. It will be used by staff of the Department of Education and Training for matters relating to the processing of scholarship applications. The information provided on this form may be disclosed to other schools. While the provision of this information is voluntary, if you do not provide all or any of this information it may limit the Department's ability to give appropriate priority to your child's application for a Boarding Scholarship. This information will be stored securely. You may access or correct any personal information provided by contacting the Rural and Distance Education Unit of the Equity Programs and Distance Education Directorate.

# BOARDING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ISOLATED STUDENTS (BSIS) 2009 APPLICATION FORM

## CATEGORY OF SCHOLARSHIP SOUGHT

This application is for a BSIS scholarship to assist the student (tick one):

- board at a school term hostel to attend a government secondary school  
or  
 board away from home to attend a specialist government secondary school  
or  
 board at an Agricultural High School

## ABOUT THE APPLICANT

Name of student \_\_\_\_\_  
Surname \_\_\_\_\_ Given Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Student's date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Male/Female \_\_\_\_\_

School the student attended in 2008: \_\_\_\_\_

School the student will attend (or wishes to attend) in 2009: \_\_\_\_\_

School Year in 2009:        7   8   9   10   11   12

Student's home address: (include postcode)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Student's postal address (if different):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Contact person for this application \_\_\_\_\_

Contact numbers: Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and location of nearest government secondary school to the student's home  
\_\_\_\_\_

Distance from the student's home to this school \_\_\_\_\_

Has the student been accepted for enrolment at the nominated school? (Tick if Yes)

**OR**, if No:

What advice has been given to you by the nominated school to indicate that the student will be accepted for enrolment?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## REPLACING ANOTHER SCHOLARSHIP

Students cannot hold an Agricultural High School Boarder Scholarship and/or an Access Scholarship for Isolated Students and receive a Boarding Scholarship for Isolated Students.

***Do you wish to replace your current AHSBS/ASIS with a BSIS if successful?***

The student was in receipt of AHSBS in 2008                      Yes

The student was in receipt of ASIS in 2008                      Yes

## ESTABLISHING ELIGIBILITY

The following sections allow you to claim 'eligibility points' that will be taken into account in processing your application. In most cases your claim for eligibility will need to be supported by relevant documentation. Please see the **Notes** to see what is required. Applications not accompanied by supporting documentation cannot be processed.

<b>A: GEOGRAPHIC ISOLATION</b>			
Circumstance (Select ONE only from A1 to A3, then ONE other from A4 to A10)	Points available	Points claimed	Documents attached (tick)
A1: The distance from the student's home to the nearest town of 10 000 people or more, by the most direct route, is more than 100km but less than 130km. OR	5		
A2: The distance from the student's home to the nearest town of 10 000 people or more, by the most direct route, is between 130km and 180km. OR	8		
A3: The distance from the student's home to the nearest town of 10 000 people or more, by the most direct route, is more than 180km. AND	10		
A4: The distance from the student's home to the nearest government secondary school is between 5km and 16km but there is <u>no</u> school transport to that school. OR	40		
A5: School transport is available to a government secondary school, but the distance from the student's home to the nearest school transport pick up point is more than 5km. OR	40		
A6: The distance from the student's home to the nearest government secondary school is more than 16km and there is no school transport available. OR	70		
A7: School transport is available to a government secondary school, but the student's home is more than 48km from the school. OR	70		
A8: The normal daily travelling time by school transport from the student's nearest transport pick up point to the nearest government secondary school would exceed 90 minutes (one-way). OR	50		
A9: The student does not have reasonable access to a government secondary school on at least 20 days per year because of impassable roads (refers to public roads only). OR	50		
A10: Geographic circumstances other than those mentioned in A1 to A9 have a significant impact on the student's ability to access secondary education. (Details attached)	40		
<b>Points claimed at A</b>			

### Notes:

Section(s)	EXAMPLES OF EVIDENCE THAT COULD SUPPORT YOUR CASE
A1,A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A8,	Confirmation of distances involved by means of detailed map, or statement from Council official, school bus operator, or other acceptable source.
A9	Evidence of absence from school by the student or a sibling due to adverse road conditions. Statement from relevant authority (e.g., local Council officer verifying that the road has been impassable at particular times, during periods of normal rainfall, and has not been upgraded since).
A4, A5,A6, A7, A8, A9	In this context a 'government secondary school' is one that offers courses of study leading to eligibility for the award of a School Certificate or Higher School Certificate (as relevant).
A10	A letter setting out the relevant details and how these affect the student's access to a secondary school.

To be considered, the applicant must be eligible for points under at least **one** of the above criteria (A1 to A10).

**B: FAMILY INCOME For guidance, see the section headed 'Calculating Adjusted Family Income'**

Circumstance (select ONE of the following)	Points available	Points claimed	Documents attached (tick)
B1: Adjusted family income for 2007/2008 is between \$52,547 and \$42,549 (ie, below LAFHA income test limit by \$1 to \$9,999) <b>OR</b>	20		
B2: Adjusted family income for 2007/2008 is between \$42,548 and \$32,549 (ie, below LAFHA income test limit by \$10,000 to \$19,999) <b>OR</b>	40		
B3: Adjusted family income for 2007/2008 is between \$32,548 and \$22,549 (ie, below LAFHA income test limit by \$20,000 to \$29,999) <b>OR</b>	60		
B4: Adjusted family income for 2007/2008 is \$22,548 or less (ie, below LAFHA income test limit by \$30,000 or more).	80		
<b>Points claimed at B</b>			
<b>Sub-total, A + B</b>			

**Notes:**

Section(s)	ESSENTIAL EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT YOUR CASE
B1, B2, B3 or B4	Statement from Australian Taxation Office (or equivalent documentary evidence) showing income from all sources. Please consult the section called 'Calculating Adjusted Family Income' on p8 of this form.

To be considered, the applicant must be eligible for points under at least **one** of the above criteria (B1 to B4).

**C: ADJUSTMENTS Add points to sub-total if any of the following apply**

Circumstance (select <u>as many of the following as apply</u> )	Points available	Points claimed	Documents attached (tick)
C1: The family is required to support one or more siblings of the student in a boarding situation away from home to access a secondary school.	10 (per sib)		
C2: The student's sole carer is required to work and so cannot provide adequate supervision of the student before and after school hours.	20		
C3: Because of the student's ill-health, it is necessary for that student to board to access a particular government secondary school.	20		
C4: A report from a counsellor or other significant source highlights specific student or family circumstances that need to be taken into account.	20		
C5: Other special circumstances known to the Principal indicate that it is necessary for this student to board away from home to attend a government secondary school (not covered by C1 to C4).	20		
Points to be added at C			
<b>Sub-total, A + B + C</b>			

**Notes:**

Section(s)	EXAMPLES OF EVIDENCE THAT COULD SUPPORT YOUR CASE
C1	Name(s) and age(s) of sibling(s) and school(s) attended. Do not count the scholarship applicant in this section. Do not count any sibling who is in receipt of Commonwealth allowances (e.g., AIC, Youth Allowance or ABSTUDY)
C2	A Statutory Declaration signed by the sole carer, setting out why supervision cannot be arranged.
C3	Letter or certificate from a relevant medical practitioner, setting out why a boarding away from home situation is crucial to the management of the student's condition.
C4	Letter or other documentation from a counsellor or registered psychologist outlining the need for a boarding placement.
C5	Statement of support by a Principal of a government school (confidential matters need not be disclosed).

**D: PLEASE INDICATE AND INITIAL IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING IS TRUE**

	yes/no	Initials
I have applied or intend to apply for AIC or ABSTUDY on behalf of the student.		
The student has applied or intends to apply for Youth Allowance or ABSTUDY		
I agree to notify the Rural and Distance Education office immediately if the student becomes eligible for any Commonwealth assistance.		
Will the student receive any other financial assistance (from any source) to cover educational costs during 2009? If yes, please give details, including the amount of any assistance.  _____		

Applications from families or students in receipt of AIC, ABSTUDY or Youth Allowance, paid by Centrelink, will not be considered for BSIS. Selection committees will take into account the amount of other educational assistance received by families when allocating priorities to applications.

## CALCULATING ADJUSTED FAMILY INCOME

In 2009 the Adjusted Family Income threshold has been set at \$52,548.

**Adjusted Family Income** is the combined taxable income from all sources in the 2007 – 2008 tax year, of each person who will contribute to the maintenance and upkeep of the student in 2009, less \$1,357 for a dependant spouse and \$1000 for each dependant child (where applicable). If you have a question about this, please check with the Allowances Officer, Rural and Distance Education, on (02) 6334 8075.

Your taxable income is the figure advised in the Notice of Assessment issued by the Australian Taxation Office. The Notice of Assessment is normally attached to the tax refund cheque or is the form that advises you of any amount you owe the Australian Taxation Office.

**Averaging of income**, as allowed by the Australian Taxation Office is NOT acceptable for the calculation of adjusted family income. You must include the actual income received in the relevant financial year, prior to the deduction of a previous year's losses. Social security payments (Centrelink payments) are taxable and need to be included as income.

### Calculating Adjusted Family Income (All applicants should complete the worksheet)

	An example	Put your figures here
<b><i>Taxable income from all sources</i></b>		
Person 1:	\$26,554	
Person 2:	\$22,069	
Other income including any additional payments e.g., child support payments, etc:	\$ 400	
Total family taxable income (1)	\$49,023	
<b><i>Subtract deductions as applicable</i></b>		
Dependant spouse @ \$1,357	N/A	
Dependant child or children @ \$1,000/child	(4 children) \$4,000	
Total deductions (2)	\$4,000	
<b>Adjusted Family Income (1 – 2)</b>	<b>\$45,023</b>	

**Separated, divorced or single parents** must disclose any maintenance or child support payments received from a spouse, former spouse or other parent of the student. These amounts should be included in the family income at (a) before any deductions are made.

Copies of taxation documents, or any other documents that show how you have calculated the Adjusted Family Income should be attached to your application to help us in processing your application.

**DECLARATIONS** To be completed by the person(s) making this application on behalf of the student.

I am/ we are solely responsible for the student's education and boarding fees.

I am/ we are responsible for the full support of the student.

I/we will inform the Department of Education and Training immediately if, during the period for which the scholarship is approved, there are changes in my/our circumstances that could affect the student's eligibility for the scholarship.

The information on this form is true and accurate in all respects.

**Signature Parent/ Carer 1**

\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Contact details:  
Residential address

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ P/code \_\_\_\_\_

Postal address (if different)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ P/code \_\_\_\_\_

Home telephone no. \_\_\_\_\_

Work telephone no. \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature Parent/ Carer 2**

\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Contact details (if different from Parent/Carer 1):  
Residential address

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ P/code \_\_\_\_\_

Postal address (if different)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ P/code \_\_\_\_\_

Home telephone no. \_\_\_\_\_

Work telephone no. \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT DETAILS – AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOLS**

Scholarships to support boarding at a government agricultural high school will be directly credited to the student's boarding account at the school and cannot be used for any other purpose.

**PAYMENT DETAILS – OTHER SCHOOLS**

If this application is for a scholarship to support a student boarding at a school term hostel or boarding to attend a government specialist secondary school, please give full details of the person who is to receive the payment.

Bank account details (for direct credit of payments)

(BSB) \_\_\_\_\_ (A/C number) \_\_\_\_\_ Name

OR by cheque to: Name of recipient \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact telephone numbers: \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ After hours