

The Education and Participation Scheme

In Germany, there is the Bildungs- und Teilhabepaket (“Education and Participation Scheme”). This is aimed at children, teenagers and young adults who do not have much money, either themselves or their families.

The scheme is designed to prevent young people from being excluded from school or leisure activities due to their financial situation. The Bildungs- und Teilhabepaket offers financial support for school trips, school materials, lunch, sports courses, music lessons and leisure activities, for example.

What is paid for/supported?

In addition to other support benefits (monthly payments from the Jobcenter, Familienkasse (family fund) or Sozialamt (social welfare office), young people receive financial assistance/grants (support) for activities in the area of education and participation. These include:

- Trips and excursions lasting several days with the school or Kita (kindergarten)
- School supplies (e.g. school satchel, exercise books, colouring materials)
- Travel costs for bus or train journeys to the nearest school of the chosen educational type
- Private coaching (if required owing to academic performance)
- Lunch at school or in the Kita (if offered by the institution)
- Membership of a club or participation in a course (e.g. sport, music, art)
- Participation in paid leisure camps, playgroups or toddler groups

Who can apply?

The Education and Participation Scheme is aimed at people who

- attend a Kita, Grundschule or Weiterführende Schule (primary or secondary school) or a vocational school (without apprenticeship salary),
and
- Bürgergeld (citizen’s allowance), Wohngeld (housing benefit), Kinderzuschlag (child supplement), Sozialhilfe (social assistance) or benefits under the Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz (Asylum Seekers’ Benefits Act).

Children and young people whose families only have a low income can also apply.

Children and young people up to the age of 25 receive benefits in the area of education (e.g. school supplies); children up to the age of 18 receive benefits in the area of participation (e.g. sports courses).

Where do I make my application?

Depending on which benefits the person receives, a different authority is responsible:

- The Jobcenter is responsible if you receive Bürgergeld (citizen's allowance), Kinderzuschlag (child supplement) or Wohngeld (housing benefit).
- If you receive Sozialhilfe (social assistance) or benefits under the Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz (Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act), the Sozialamt (social welfare office) is responsible.