

Age 18 REDETERMINATION

What Students with Disabilities,
Parents, & Educators Need to Know

01

What is Age 18 Redetermination?

When a young person on **Supplemental Security Income (SSI)** turns 18, the Social Security Administration (SSA) reviews their case to see if they still qualify under adult disability rules. These adult rules are different and add a focus on whether the person can work and earn above a certain amount, called Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA). Because of this change, some young people may lose their SSI benefits at age 18.

02

Key Information for Families & Educators

- No Application Needed** – SSA automatically initiates the review.
- Documentation is Critical** – Be ready to share *medical records, school supports, and any work history*.
- Early Planning Helps** – preparing in advance can help maintain access to supports and make the transition to adulthood smoother.



03

Getting Started



Start Early – Meet with your IEP or transition team before age 17. Learn from your VR Counselor what SSA will ask for.



Partner with a Certified Benefits Planner – They can guide families through work rules, redetermination, and long-term planning. They can also help you explore **Work Incentives** that help people be able to work more while maintaining SSA benefits, and necessary supports.



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Explore Working with Confidence

Work is an important part of transitioning to adulthood, but many youth with disabilities and their families worry that earning income will result in a loss of benefits and supports they need. Thankfully, SSA has specific programs— called **Work Incentives**— that act as a safety net, allowing people with disabilities to work **and** maintain their benefits. This makes the transition into employment and adulthood smoother and less risky. Examples of Work Incentives include the **Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE)**, **Section 301**, and **Plan to Achieve Self Support (PASS)**.

Action Steps for Everyone



Students

- ▶ Talk to your family, teachers, or counselors for help.
- ▶ Start having conversations about work goals with your IEP team.
- ▶ Gain job experience if you can, even part-time.
- ▶ Ask questions!



Parents

- ▶ Learn the adult disability standards.
- ▶ Look for help from educators, WIPA Programs, or Vocational Rehabilitation.
- ▶ Encourage work experience! Don't let fear of losing benefits stop progress.



Educators

- ▶ Make sure transition plans cover benefits and work incentives.
- ▶ Invite VR and CWIC staff to IEP meetings.
- ▶ Support early work experiences and career exploration.
- ▶ Encourage students to advocate for their wants and needs.



Age 18
Redetermination
isn't the end
**ITS A
MILESTONE**

With the right strategy, young people with disabilities can protect their benefits, explore work opportunities and move confidently toward independence. This transition is a chance to set new goals, develop skills, and build a future full of possibilities.

By understanding your options and planning ahead, you can maintain your benefits while gaining valuable experience through work and education.



GET CONNECTED

Understanding and navigating the Age 18 Redetermination process can be challenging and overwhelming. Fortunately, professional support is available! Certified Benefits Planners are specially trained to help young people and their families understand their benefits and Social Security processes.

If you have questions or want more support, reach out to a Community Work Incentive Coordinator through Disability Rights Iowa (DRI), or a Certified Work Incentive Coordinator (CWIC) through Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS).

Disability Rights Iowa

1-800-779-2502

<https://disabilityrightsia.org/>

Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation

1-800-532-1486

<https://workforce.iowa.gov/vr/contact>