



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Benefits Administration

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) For School-Age Children Ages 18–23

What Happens When a Dependent Child on a VA DIC Award Turns 18?

If a parent is receiving an additional monthly payment for a dependent child, the parent must take action **before** the child turns 18 to continue payments. To avoid any interruption, the parent must submit the appropriate application confirming the child will continue attending school after turning 18. VA will generally continue payments while the child is attending school, including during normal school breaks like summer.

Who Qualifies as a School-Age Child?

A "school-age child" is an unmarried child between ages 18 and 23 who meets one of the following:

- is currently attending high school
- has been accepted to start higher education at a VA-approved [educational institution](#) in the fall after high school graduation
- is currently attending an accredited college or approved educational program

How to Apply for School-Age Child DIC Benefits (Ages 18-23):

A parent should submit [VA Form 21-674 Request for Approval of School Attendance](#) **no earlier than** three months **before** the child turns 18.

- If the form is submitted **after** the child turns 18, the child **must** sign the form themselves, since DIC payments will go directly to them. A separate *VA Form 21-674* is required for each school the child attends or plans to attend.

Additional Information:

If the student begins receiving Chapter 35 Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) or Chapter 33 Fry Scholarship, DIC entitlement will cease since both benefits may not be received simultaneously. Although VA can track education payments, students should still notify VA promptly if they begin using education benefits to avoid potential overpayments by calling 800-827-1000 or uploading a statement through a [www.va.gov](#) account at <https://www.va.gov/supporting-forms-for-claims/submit-statement-form-21-4138/introduction>.

For general information on survivor benefits, visit <https://www.va.gov/family-and-caregiver-benefits/survivor-compensation/>.