



Direktion für Inneres und Justiz
KJA – Kantonales Jugendamt

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Factsheet on sharing the costs of attending a separate special primary or lower secondary school (*besondere Volksschule*)

Basic position

If a child is placed in residential care and attends a special separate primary or lower secondary school, the Cantonal Youth Welfare Office (CYWO) must calculate the parents' contribution to the costs.

How is the parents' share of the costs decided?

- The contribution to costs can either be based on the parents' financial circumstances (ability-to-pay model); or
- The parents can apply to the CYWO to pay for their child's meals (cost-of-meals model)

Ability to pay

Under the ability-to-pay model, the amount of the contribution to costs is based on the parents' financial circumstances.

The calculation is based on the information in the most recent tax assessment decision. In the case of self-employed persons, the last three tax assessment decisions are considered.

If the annual income for the household is less than CHF 55,000.00, or if the parents receive social assistance or supplementary benefits, they are not required to pay a share of the costs.

Children and young adults are only required to contribute to the costs of their residential accommodation if they pay tax on their income and assets independently and have an annual income of over CHF 55,000.

- Do you want your share of the costs to be calculated according to your ability to pay? Complete the attached form and submit the documents to the CYWO.

Cost-of-meals model

The cost-of-meals model can be requested if

- the child is accommodated in a residential care home **and**
- the child attends a separate special primary or lower secondary school.

If this is the case, you will be charged CHF 25.00 per night by the care home.

- Do you want to be billed for the cost of meals? Complete the enclosed form and tick "Cost-of-meals model".

Which model is the better choice for me?

Your financial circumstances and the number of overnight stays will determine which model is less expensive for you.

- If you choose the "cost-of-meals model" on the form and send us your tax documents, we will let you know which model is the better choice for you.

What happens if I do not submit a request?

The amount of your cost contribution will then be calculated according to the ability-to-pay model and a draft agreement will be sent to you.

If you are unable agree with the CYWO on your cost contribution, the CYWO will take civil action to recover the contribution.

Who should I contact if I have questions?

We hope that this factsheet has provided you with the most important information. However, if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact:

- the Cantonal Youth Welfare Office, kja-bern@be.ch, Tel. +41 31 633 76 33

Further information is available at: Art. 34 KFSV Exceptions. There you will also find this factsheet in the following languages: French, German, Turkish, Arabic, Albanian.

Attachment

- Application form for contributing to costs