

Subpart D—Educational Assistance Benefit Claims

§ 32.31 Scope of subpart.

Consistent with § 32.1, this subpart contains provisions applicable to claims (*i.e.*, threshold claims and financial claims) made under the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796d–1.

§ 32.32 Time for filing claim.

(a) Subject to the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796d–1(c), and to paragraph (b) of this section, a claim may be filed with the PSOB Office at any time after the injury date.

(b) Unless, for good cause shown, the Director grants a waiver, no financial claim may be filed with the PSOB Office, with respect to a grading period that commences more than six months after the date of filing.

(c) A claimant may file with his claim such supporting documentary, electronic, video, or other nonphysical evidence and legal arguments as he may wish to provide.

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§ 32.33 Definitions.

Application means claim (*i.e.*, a threshold claim or a financial claim).

Assistance means financial assistance.

Child of an eligible public safety officer means the child of a public safety officer, which officer is an eligible public safety officer.

Dependent—An individual is a dependent of an eligible public safety officer, if—

(1) Being a child of the officer, the individual—

(i) Was claimed properly as the officer's dependent (within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code, at 26 U.S.C. 152) on the officer's federal income-tax return (or could have been claimed if such a return had been required by law)—

(A) For the tax year of (or immediately preceding) either the injury date or the date of the officer's death (with respect to a claim by virtue of such death); or

(B) For the relevant tax year (with respect to a claim by virtue of the officer's disability); or

(ii) Is the officer's posthumous child; or

(2) Being a spouse of the officer at the time of the officer's death or on the date of the officer's totally and permanently disabling injury, the individual received over half of his support from the officer (or had as his principal place of abode the home of the officer and was a member of the officer's household)—

(i) As of either the injury date or the date of the officer's death (with respect to a claim by virtue of such death); or

(ii) In the relevant tax year (with respect to a claim by virtue of the officer's disability).

Educational assistance benefits means benefits specifically to assist in paying educational expenses.

Educational expenses means such of the following as may be in furtherance of the educational, professional, or vocational objective of the program of education that forms the basis of a financial claim:

(1) Tuition and fees, as described in 20 U.S.C. 10871(1) (higher education assistance);

(2) Reasonable expenses for—

(i) Room and board (if incurred for attendance on at least a half-time basis);

(ii) Books;

(iii) Computer equipment;

(iv) Supplies;

(v) Transportation; and

(3) For attendance on at least a three-quarter-time basis, a standard allowance for miscellaneous personal expenses that is the greater of—

(i) The allowance for such expenses, as established by the eligible educational institution for purposes of financial aid; or

(ii) \$200.00 per month.

Eligible dependent means an individual who—

(1) Is a dependent of an eligible public safety officer;

(2) Attends a program of education, as described in the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796d–1(a)(1); and

(3) Is otherwise eligible to receive financial assistance pursuant to the Act or this subpart.