

## Switzerland

**Distinctive Features:** The major role of 26 cantons, the system of direct-democracy, and the regional/linguistic diversity create a weak federal state and fragmented, heterogeneous family policies. It is a prosperous country.

### Maternity / Parental Leave

Benefit	Maternity benefit set by canton, varies and not always job-protected.
Eligibility Criteria	Employment with social security coverage. Negotiated by collective working conventions.
Duration of Leave	Maternity; 16 weeks.
Compensation Rate	Varies, up to 100%

### Early Childhood Education and Care

Under-developed systems; vary by commune. No federal legislation or subsidies.

### Family and Child Allowances

Cantons central. Diverse and pluralistic system (federal canton, business and professional orgs.) Despite federally defined minimum. Children under 16 (unless disabled, 18 or 20).

### Child Support

Advance maintenance systems in all cantons.

### Tax Benefits

Numerous family supports. 21 systems.

### Other Child-Conditioned Income Transfers

Dependent, survivor benefits. Higher unemployment benefits if there are dependents.

### Child Health

Pluralistic system but mandatory comprehensive coverage

### School-Age Children Policies

High participation rates for secondary education. Federal and cantonal aid for 20 percent of students in vocational and agricultural training.