

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.