Illinois Department of Revenue
Brian Hamer, Director

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Education Expense Credit General Rules and Requirements for Parents and Guardians

The information in this publication is current as of the date of the publication. Please visit our web site at **tax.illinois.gov** to verify you have the most current revision.

This publication is written in the plain English style so the tax information is easier to understand. As a result, we do not directly quote Illinois statutes and the Illinois Administrative Code. The contents of this publication are informational only and do not take the place of statutes, rules, and court decisions. For many topics covered in this publication, we have provided a reference to the applicable section or part of the Illinois Administrative Code for further clarification or more detail. All of the sections and parts referenced can be found in Title 86 of the Code.

About this publication

Publication 132, Education Expense Credit General Rules and Requirements for Parents and Guardians, provides parents and guardians the requirements for qualified education expenses. The objectives of Publication 132 are to

- identify who is eligible to take an education expense credit.
- identify qualified schools.
- identify qualified education expenses.
- identify education expenses that do not qualify.
- list required attachments to Form IL-1040, Individual Income Tax Return, for parents or guardians who are claiming an education expense credit.

Note This publication does not apply to home schooled students. For information about the education expense credit for home schooled students, see Publication 119, Education Expense Credit General Rules and Requirements for Home Schools.

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

You have the right to call the Department of Revenue for help in resolving tax problems.

You have the right to privacy and confidentiality under most tax laws.

You have the right to respond, within specified time periods, to department notices by asking questions, paying the amount due, or providing proof to refute the department's findings.

You have the right to appeal department decisions, in many instances, within specified time periods, by asking for department review or by taking the issue to court.

If you have overpaid your taxes, you have the right, within specified time periods, to a credit (or, in some cases, a refund) of that overpayment.

For more information about these rights and other department procedures, you may write us at the following address:

Problems Resolution Office
Illinois Department of Revenue
PO Box 19014
Springfield, IL 62794-9014

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General Information

Who may claim an education expense credit?

You may figure a credit for qualified education expenses, in excess of $250, you paid during the tax year if

- you were the parent or legal guardian of a full-time student who was under the age of 21 at the close of the school year.
- you and your student were Illinois residents when you paid the expenses, and
- your student attended kindergarten (at a school that also has a first grade) through twelfth grade at a public or nonpublic school in Illinois during the tax year.

Note If you are the parents or legal guardians of a qualified student and you are filing separate Illinois returns, you may each claim an education expense credit. However, you both may not claim a credit for the same expenses, and the total amount of credit claimed between both parents or guardians may not exceed $500.

What schools qualify for an education expense credit?

Public and nonpublic elementary and secondary schools in Illinois that satisfy the requirements of the truancy law in Section 26-1 of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/26-1] and, if required, are in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 qualify as Illinois schools for the purpose of the education expense credit.

What are qualified education expenses?

In general, qualified education expenses are the amounts paid in excess of $250 for tuition, book fees, and lab fees at the school where the student is enrolled in kindergarten (at a school that also has a first grade) through twelfth grade during the regular school year.

Specifically, qualified education expenses include the amount of

- **tuition** (including summer school classes required for elementary or secondary graduation requirements).
- **book fees** paid for the rental of books that were required as a part of the school's education program.
- **lab fees** paid for the use of supplies, equipment, materials, or instruments that were required as part of a lab course in the school's education program.

  For example, if you rented a musical instrument from the school (not from a business)
  - for a class, or
  - for participation in an extracurricular activity that resulted in a credit toward completion of the school's education program,

  this rental expense qualifies as an education expense.

What education expenses do not qualify?

Education expenses that do not qualify for an education expense credit include expenses paid

- to a daycare, preschool, kindergarten at a school that does not also have a first grade, college, university, independent tutoring service, or trade school.
- for the purchase of supplies, books or equipment that are not significantly used up during the school year (*e.g.,* purchasing musical instruments, costumes for a play).
- for the use of supplies, equipment, materials, or instruments if the program does not result in a credit toward completion of the school's education program.
- directly to a business (*e.g.,* renting a musical instrument from a music store).
- for tutoring or enrichment classes that do not count toward meeting your required curriculum.
- for after school care, even if paid to the school.
- for yourself or your spouse.

How much credit will I be allowed?

You will be allowed 25 percent of your student's qualified education expenses after the first $250. Your total credit may not exceed $500 in any year, regardless of the number of qualifying students.

How should I figure a credit for education expenses, and what must I attach to my Form IL-1040 when I claim this credit?

If you

- did not obtain a receipt from the school, you must complete Schedule ED, Credit for K-12 Education Expenses.

  Attach Schedule ED (**not** the ED Worksheet) to your Form IL-1040.
- received a receipt from the school for the qualified education expenses you paid, you must complete the "K-12 Education Expense (ED) Worksheet" to figure the amount of your credit. You will find a copy of the worksheet in this publication and in the Form IL-1040 Instructions.

  Attach The "Receipt for Qualified K-12 Education Expenses" that you received from the school (**not** the ED Worksheet) to your Form IL-1040.

  Note The receipt you received from the school must contain the following information:
  - the calendar year during which you paid the education expenses
  - the name and address of the school
  - the name and address of the parent or legal guardian
  - the name and Social Security number of each qualifying student
  - the grade in which each student was enrolled during the calendar year
  - the total education expenses paid for each student for tuition book fees, and lab fees during the calendar year

  If the receipt does not contain all the information required, you should contact the school for a proper receipt.

K-12 Education Expense Credit (ED) Worksheet

Complete this worksheet only if you received a receipt from the school. Otherwise, complete Schedule ED.

1	Total amount of qualified expenses you paid during the tax year from your receipt. If less than $250, stop here. If greater than $250, write the amount here and on Line 21a of your Form IL-1040.		1	_____|____
2	You may not take a credit for the first $250 paid for your family's education expenses.		2	250|00
3	Subtract Line 2 from Line 1.		3	_____|____
4	Multiply the amount on Line 3 by 25% (.25).		4	_____|____
5	Income tax from Form IL-1040, Line 16		5	_____|____
6	Credit for tax paid to other states from Form IL-1040, Line 19	6 _____|____		
7	Property tax credit from Form IL-1040, Line 20b	7 _____|____		
8	Add Lines 6 and 7.		8	_____|____
9	Subtract Line 8 from Line 5.		9	_____|____
10	Compare the amount on Line 4, the amount on Line 9, and $500. Write the lesser amount here and on your Form IL-1040, Line 21b. This is your education expense credit.		10	_____|____

Be sure to keep this worksheet with your income tax records. However, you must attach the receipts you received from the school to your Form IL-1040.

Office locations

Maine North Regional Building
9511 Harrison Street FA 203
Des Plaines, Illinois 60016-1563
847 294-4200

200 South Wyman Street
Rockford, Illinois 61101-1237
815 987-5210

James R. Thompson Center
Concourse Level
100 West Randolph Street
Chicago, Illinois 60601-3274
312 814-5232

Willard Ice Building
101 West Jefferson
Springfield, Illinois 62702
800 732-8866
217 782-3336

15 Executive Drive
Business Center One, Suite 2
Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208-1331
618 624-6773

Out-of-state office location
Century Plaza
45 Eisenhower Drive
Suite 2
Paramus, New Jersey 07352-1416
201 845-0255

2309 W. Main
Suite 114
Marion, Illinois 62959-1196
618 993-7650

For information or forms

Visit our web site at **tax.illinois.gov**.
Call us at **1 800 732-8866** or **217 782-3336**.
Call our TDD (telecommunications device for the deaf) at **1 800 544-5304**.
Write us at Illinois Department of Revenue, P.O. Box 19044, Springfield, IL 62794-9044.
Call our 24-hour Forms Order Line at **1 800 356-6302**.

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