



Publication 132

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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 website 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 Illinois Administrative 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, by filing a petition with the Illinois Independent Tax Tribunal, or by filing a complaint in circuit 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 Division
Illinois Department of Revenue
PO Box 19014
Springfield, IL 62794-9014

Get forms and other information faster and easier at tax.illinois.gov

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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 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 \$750 for tax years ending on or after December 31, 2017 or \$500 for tax years ending prior to December 31, 2017, regardless of the number of qualifying students.

Note → For tax years ending on or after December 31, 2017, an education expense credit is not allowed if the taxpayer's adjusted gross income for the taxable year exceeds \$500,000 for returns with a federal filing status of married filing jointly, or \$250,000 for all other returns.

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 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,

then 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, 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.
- with a scholarship.

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 \$750 for tax years ending on or after December 31, 2017 or \$500 for tax years ending prior to December 31, 2017, 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?

For tax year

- 2017 and after, you must complete Schedule ICR, Illinois Credits, including the K-12 Education Expense Credit Worksheet, Lines 10 and 11, to figure a credit for education expenses.

Attach Schedule ICR.

- 2010 - 2016, you must complete Schedule ICR, Illinois Credits, including Section B, Lines 12 and 13, to figure a credit for education expenses.

Attach Schedule ICR and any "Receipt for Qualified K-12 Education Expenses" that you received from the school to your Form IL-1040.

- 2008 and 2009, you must complete Schedule ICR, Illinois Credits, to figure a credit for education expenses.

Attach Schedule ICR and the "Receipt for Qualified K-12 Education Expenses" that you received from the school to your Form IL-1040. If you did not obtain a receipt from the school, you must also complete Section B, Lines 12 and 13 of Schedule ICR to figure your qualified education expenses.

- 2007 and earlier, see the Instructions for the year you are filing.

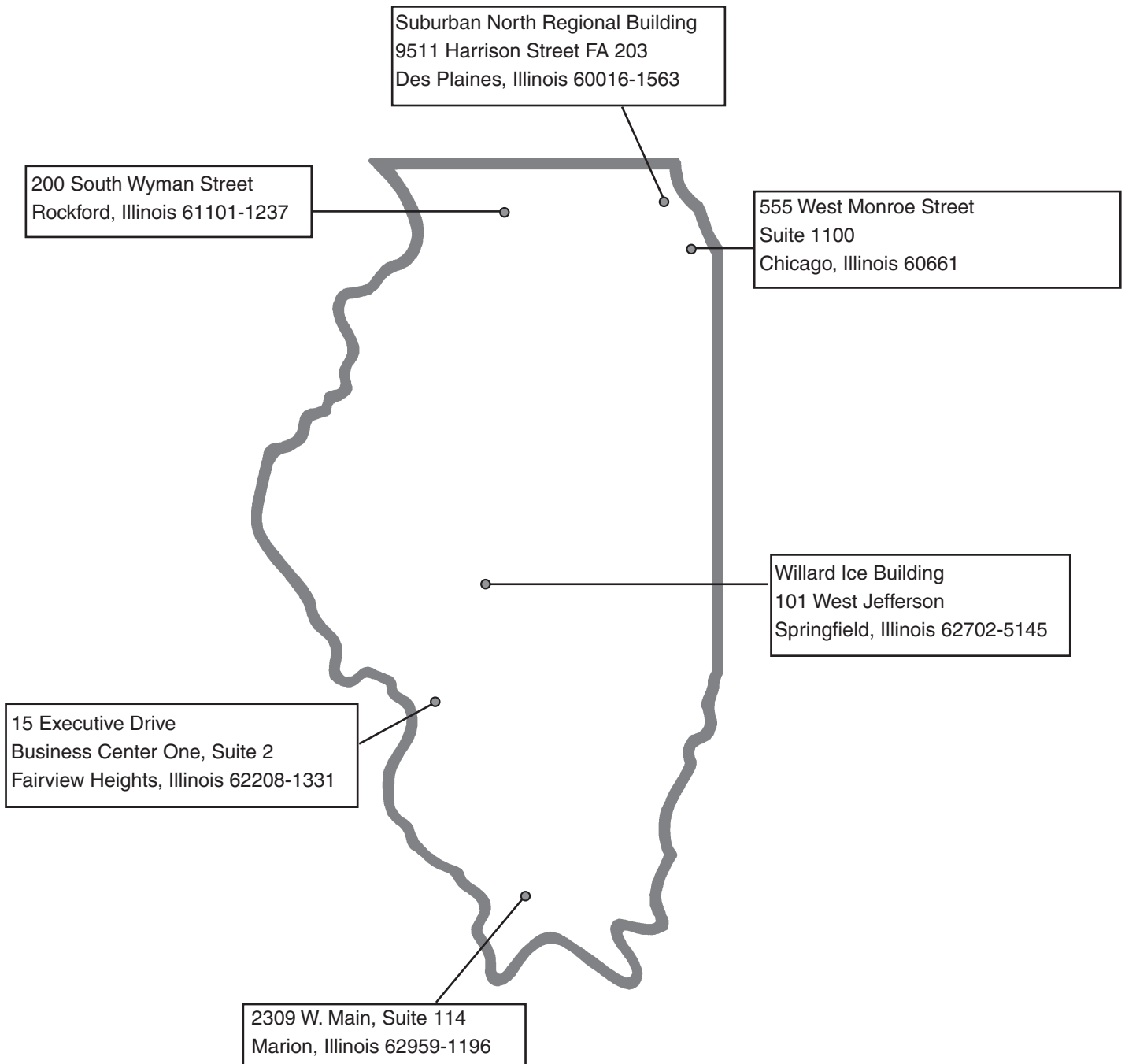
Note The receipt you received from the school must contain the following information:

- the **calendar** year during which you paid the education expenses,
- the name of the school,
- the name and address of the parent or guardian who paid,
- the name of each qualifying student,
- the grade in which each student was enrolled during the calendar year, and
- 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. In addition, if the receipt you received from the school does not contain the Social Security number of the parent or guardian, or the Social Security number for each qualifying student, you should provide the information on the receipt yourself.

Note All information on the receipt is confidential information for use only as supporting documentation of the education expense credit claimed and shall not be used for any other purpose.

Office Locations



Contact Information

Visit our website at tax.illinois.gov. For specific phone number and email contacts see our [Contact Us](#) page.

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, PO Box 19001, Springfield, IL 62794-9001.

Call our 24-hour Forms Order Line at **1 800 356-6302**.