



What is the Georgia Private School Tax Credit?

If you or your Company pay any Georgia State Income Tax and would like to have control over how part of this money is used, GaSSO can help you direct some of your tax dollars to Private Schools for Scholarships. In May 2008, the State of Georgia passed new legislation (HB 1133) which allows tax payers to have some control over how their tax dollars are used. This legislation allows taxpayers to “Donate” part of their Georgia Income Tax for use at Private Schools to provide Scholarships for children in Pre-K through 12th grade. The “Donor” receives a dollar for dollar credit off of their Georgia Income Tax for their “Donation”. The law allows up to \$100.0 million per year in tax credits for Donations to Private Schools.

How can the Georgia Private School Tax Credit benefit my son or daughter in attending a Private School?

Donors can designate a specific school to receive their scholarship donation. Therefore, if a student has relatives/friends who pay Georgia Income Tax, the relatives/friends can make a donation and specify the student’s school. The donation cost is essentially zero to the relatives/friends since they receive a dollar for dollar credit off their Georgia Income Tax and the student benefits by receiving a scholarship which can substantially reduce or eliminate the cost for tuition to the private school.

How do I make a donation to receive the dollar for dollar credit off my Georgia Income Taxes?

Donors must work with a Georgia Department of Education (GADOE) approved Student Scholarship Organization (SSO). Each approved SSO is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization that manages the donations and scholarships/tuition grants under the Georgia Private School tax Credit law.

GaSSO’s Simple Approval Process for 2019 Donations

Starting in 2014 all request for approval to make a donation must be submitted electronically to Georgia Department of Revenue

1. Donors complete an online request at <https://www.georgiasso.us/DonationForm.html> Donors will also choose the school(s) for their donation.
2. GaSSO will electronically file the pre-approval request for the Donor with GADOR starting January 2, 2019 (in the order received) and will track and receive the approval. Once approved, GaSSO will contact the Donor via email and request payment for the donation within 60 days of the approval date.
3. GaSSO will process the donation and send the Donor all documents via email for their tax records and will inform the school their donation is available for scholarship award.
4. The Donor files their Georgia Income Tax return and receives the dollar for dollar credit off their Georgia Income Taxes.
5. The process repeats annually starting January 1 and is available until the entire \$100 million in credits are used (on a first come first serve basis).

This simplified, electronic process will allow GaSSO to easily track the Donor’s approval. Also, with the growth and popularity of the program, the credits will be used quickly and Donors are encouraged to use the online form forms as early as possible **BEFORE December 30, 2018**.



How much can I donate and still receive the dollar for dollar credit off my Georgia Income Taxes?

An individual can donate up to \$1000.

A married couple filing a separate return can donate up to \$1250 each.

A married couple filing a joint return can donate up to \$2500.

Individuals with income from pass through entities can donate up to \$10,000 or their GA tax liability (whichever is less).

A corporation paying GA Income Tax can donate up to 75% of it's GA tax liability.

If I over pay on my Georgia Income Tax and have made a donation, will I receive a refund including the donation?

Yes as long as your Georgia tax liability is greater than the donation amount. Before considering a donation to any SSO, we advise you contact your professional tax advisor to review the tax laws surrounding the Georgia Private School Tax Credit.

Who is eligible to receive a scholarship or tuition grant?

Eligible student means a student who is a Georgia resident who, immediately prior to receiving a scholarship or tuition grant under Code Section 20-2A-2 and enrolling in a qualified school or program, was enrolled in and attended for at least six weeks a Georgia secondary or primary public school or who is eligible to enroll in a qualified first grade, kindergarten program, or pre-kindergarten program; provided, however, that if a student is deemed an eligible student pursuant to this paragraph, he or she shall continue to qualify as such until he or she graduates, reaches the age of 20, or returns to a public school, whichever occurs first; and provided, further, that the enrollment and six-week public school attendance requirements shall be waived in the case of a student who, based on the school attendance zone of his or her primary residence, is or would be assigned to a public school that the Office of Student Achievement determines to be a low-performing school, who is the subject of officially documented cases of school based physical violence or student related verbal abuse threatening physical harm, or who was enrolled in a home study program meeting the requirements of subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690 for at least one year immediately prior to receiving a scholarship or tuition grant under Code Section 20-2A-2."

How do I apply for a scholarship or tuition grant?

Scholarships are awarded upon recommendations from the participating private schools based on merit, need, and/or other criteria. In awarding a scholarship, the financial need of the student (from all sources) shall be considered. Scholarship application forms are available from the participating Private Schools.

What is a Student Scholarship Organization (SSO)?

The Law requires a SSO to manage the Donations between the Donor and the Private Schools. SSO's are non profit 501(c)(3) charitable organizations and must allocate between 92% - 96% of revenue for scholarships and tuition grants based upon the amount of annual donations.

Links and web sites

Georgia Student Scholarship Organization (SSO), Inc. - www.georgiasso.us

Georgia Department of Education - http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/pea_policy.aspx?PageReq=PEAHB1133

Georgia Department of Revenue - <http://www.dor.ga.gov/>

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