

Private school/homeschool deduction 626

You may be eligible for a deduction based on education expenditures paid for each dependent child who is enrolled in a private school or is homeschooled.

Dependent child qualifications

- Your dependent child must be eligible to receive a free elementary or high school education (K-12 range) in an Indiana school corporation;
- You must be eligible to claim the child as a dependent on your federal tax return; and
- The child must be your natural or adopted child or, if not, you must have been awarded custody of the child in a court proceeding making you the court appointed guardian or custodian of the child

Education expenditure. This refers to any expenditures made in connection with enrollment, attendance, or participation of your dependent child in a private elementary or high school education program. The term includes tuition, fees, computer software, textbooks, workbooks, curricula, school supplies (other than personal computers), and other written materials used primarily for academic instruction or for academic tutoring, or both. The term does not include the delivery of instructional service in a home setting to your dependent child who is enrolled in a school corporation or a charter school.

A “private elementary or high school education program” means attendance at a nonpublic school (including a private school, a parochial school and a homeschool) in Indiana that satisfies a child’s obligation for compulsory attendance at a school.

The obligation for “compulsory attendance” means a child must be in attendance in a school (public and/or private) for a minimum of 180 days in a calendar year.

No deduction will be available based on a child who attends school for a period of less than 180 days in a calendar year.

Figure your deduction. If you made an unreimbursed education expenditure during 2011 your deduction is:

- (1) \$1,000; multiplied by
- (2) the number of qualified dependent children for whom you made education expenditures.

Example. Greg and Constance have three children ages 7, 9 and 11. The two oldest children attend a private school. The youngest child attends the neighborhood public school. The parents purchased schoolbooks for all three children. They will be eligible for a \$2,000 deduction (the youngest does not qualify as he attends a public school).

Note: A qualifying child may be claimed for this deduction only once per year. For example, if a husband and wife are married and filing separately, whichever parent is eligible to claim the child as a dependent for exemption purposes is eligible to claim this deduction.

How to report the deduction. If the private school or homeschool is registered with the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE), enter the school’s name and identifying number assigned by the IDOE.

Examples.

- On Schedule 2 line 11a enter “XYZ Homeschool 019999Z” in the “Enter deduction name” box, followed by code no. 626 and the amount of the deduction.
- If the school is not registered with the IDOE, just enter the name “XYZ Homeschool” in the “Enter deduction name” box, followed by code no. 626 and the amount of the deduction.
- If the school has no designated name, enter “private school/homeschool” in the “Enter deduction name” box, followed by code no. 626 and the amount of the deduction.

For more information about this deduction, see Income Tax Information Bulletin #107 at www.in.gov/dor/3650.htm.