

Support Our Schools and Save on Your Taxes

The **2023** Legislature authorized enhanced tax credit opportunities for Montanans to support their local public schools through HB 408. Tax credit details for the program are available on the Department of Revenue's [Qualified Education Contributions Guide](#). This is a great opportunity to support Billings Public Schools for opportunities to enhance educational experiences for our students.

Donation registration must be completed by January 17th, 2024. You can make cash/check donations directly to Billings Public Schools and **receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit** on your **2024 state tax bill**. A tax credit is an amount taxpayers can subtract from income taxes they owe. Unlike deductions or exemptions (which reduce the amount of taxable income), a credit reduces the actual amount of income taxes owed!

Your donation can help Billings Public Schools expand innovative educational programs that benefit our students through enhanced:

- Transformational and advanced learning opportunities
- Programs, services and equipment for students with disabilities
- Work-based learning partnerships
- Post-secondary credit and career certifications
- Technologies that improve student experiences and opportunities

We encourage you to make your donation early in January 2024. Time is critical to earn this dollar-for-dollar tax credit, which is available on a **first-come, first-serve basis**. In 2023, the \$2 million statewide cap was claimed in less than 48 hours. Here are some important caps to be aware of:

- Individuals or corporations can donate up to \$200,000 per year for innovative educational programs.
- The aggregate amount of tax credits that may be claimed statewide in 2024 is \$5,000,000.

HOW IT WORKS

Billings Public Schools is registered on the Montana Department of Revenue's (DOR) Education Donations Portal to accept donations for the Innovative Educational Program Tax Credit.

- If individuals or businesses want to make a cash donation to Billings Public Schools for the Innovative Educational Program Tax Credit, please send an email to hertzka@billingspublicschools.org stating the donation is for "innovative educational programs" or go online or scan the below QR code
<https://sites.google.com/billingspublicschools.org/innovative-educ-tax-credit/home>



- The following information is required for the district to record the donation on the Department of Revenue tax credit portal. Emails/Donations will be recorded on a first come, first served basis.
 - **In your email please include the following information:**
 - Donation reason: Innovative Educational Programs
 - Amount of the donation
 - Your name (or Business Name)
 - Last four digits of your Social Security Number (SSN) or Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN)
 - Your mailing address
 - Your physical address
 - Your email address
 - Your phone number

NOTE: There is a chance the \$5 million cap will be met before your donation is recorded. If your donation is not accepted by the DOR because the aggregate limit was reached, you will not be obligated to make the donation. If you choose to donate for the tax credit, we are grateful for your support of Billings Public Schools.

- **Billings Public Schools must have actual receipt of a cash donation (or check) before we can pre-register the donation.** A pledge or promise of a donation is not sufficient for Billings Public Schools to preregister a donation. *Please contact Krista Hertz (406-281-5113/hertzka@billingspublicschools.org) or Craig VanNice (406-281-5017/

vannicec@billingschools.org) to make arrangements to receive your donation via mail or in person.

- Billings Public Schools will enter your information in the Education Donations Portal. All information is confidential tax information and will not be shared publicly.
- Once the District records the donation, the DOR will pre-approve the donation (so long as the individual and statewide thresholds noted above have not been exceeded) and you will receive a confirmation number and receipt that you will include when you file your 2024 taxes.

The statewide aggregate threshold of **\$5 million** is tracked on the [DOR Education Donation Portal](#) homepage. You will be able to view how much of the credit has been reserved, how much is available, and how much is pending.

If you have any questions, please contact Krista Hertz at 406-281-5113 or hertzk@billingschools.org or Craig VanNice at 406-281-5017 or vannicec@billingschools.org at Billings Public Schools or Dona Losett at the Montana Department of Revenue at (406) 444-1991 or Dona.Losett@mt.gov.