



Great Falls Public Schools

District Offices • 1100 4th Street South • P.O. Box 2429 • Great Falls,
MT 59403 • 406.268.6000 • www.gfps.k12.mt.us

November 20, 2024

To the Great Falls Community,

Did you know that you have the incredible opportunity to directly impact the education of students in our community through the **Innovative Education Tax Credit** for Great Falls Public Schools? The state allows you to redirect a portion of your taxes directly to our school district instead of to the State, empowering us to enhance educational programs that significantly benefit our students' learning experiences.

The 2023 Legislature has enhanced this program (HB 408), making it more impactful than ever before. By participating before the deadline of Wednesday, January 17, 2024, you'll receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit on your State income tax bill in 2024.

Great Falls Public Schools has prioritized that donations will support innovative educational initiatives, primarily focusing on transformational and advanced learning opportunities and work based learning partnerships along with post secondary credit and career certifications. Additional options for the funds include technology enhancements and programs, services and adaptive equipment for children with disabilities.

This opportunity operates on a first-come, first-served basis. In 2022, the \$1 million credit was claimed in less than six minutes, and in 2023, most of the \$2 million was claimed immediately. Please note the following caps: Individuals or corporations can donate up to \$200,000 per year for our school's innovative educational programs.

The statewide aggregate amount of tax credits claimable in 2024 is \$5,000,000. Big Sky has taken full advantage of this program to date by claiming \$895,500 of the available tax credit funds. Our challenge is to provide our community with an awareness of this valuable program we can claim our fair share of the available funding for Great Falls Public Schools.

Moreover, this program allows for a carryover of tax credits for up to three years for donors. Upon participation, you will receive a confirmation number and receipt to include when filing your 2024 taxes.

We highly encourage you to consult your accountants, tax advisors, and/or financial planners before participating in this program.

Additional background information including a Publication from the Department of Revenue and House Bill 408 are located on the District website. Please contact Brian Patrick, Clerk of the District, at 406-268-6050 or email brian_patrick@gfps.k12.mt.us for specific information about the process. For program specifics, you can reach out to Dona Losett at the Montana Department of Revenue at 406-444-1991 or email dona.losett@mt.gov.

Your generous support will play a crucial role in shaping the future of education for our students. Together, we can create meaningful change and open doors to brighter opportunities.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

"The Innovative Education Program is an exciting opportunity for taxpayers to make a big difference in the lives of our students by directing their tax dollars to the Great Falls Public School District. If we come together as a community, we can steer up to \$1 million to the students of Great Falls at minimal cost."

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Sincerely,

Brian Patrick
Director of Business Operations
Great Falls Public Schools