Form **W-4**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Employee's Withholding Certificate

Complete Form W-4 so that your employer can withhold the correct federal income tax from your pay.
Give Form W-4 to your employer.
Your withholding is subject to review by the IRS.

OMB No. 1545-0074

2026

Step 1: Enter Personal Information

(a) First name and middle initial	Last name	(b) Social security number
Address		**Does your name match the name on your social security card?** If not, to ensure you get credit for your earnings, contact SSA at 800-772-1213 or go to *www.ssa.gov*.
City or town, state, and ZIP code		

(c) ☐ **Single** or **Married filing separately**
☐ **Married filing jointly** or **Qualifying surviving spouse**
☐ **Head of household** (Check only if you're unmarried and pay more than half the costs of keeping up a home for yourself and a qualifying individual.)

Caution: To claim certain credits or deductions on your tax return, you (and/or your spouse if married filing jointly) are required to have a social security number valid for employment. See page 2 for more information.

TIP: Consider using the estimator at *www.irs.gov/W4App* to determine the most accurate withholding for the rest of the year if you: are completing this form after the beginning of the year; expect to work only part of the year; or have changes during the year in your marital status, number of jobs for you (and/or your spouse if married filing jointly), dependents, other income (not from jobs), deductions, or credits. Have your most recent pay stub(s) from this year available when using the estimator. At the beginning of next year, use the estimator again to recheck your withholding.

Complete Steps 2–4 ONLY if they apply to you; otherwise, skip to Step 5. See page 2 for more information on each step, who can claim exemption from withholding, and when to use the estimator at *www.irs.gov/W4App*.

Step 2: Multiple Jobs or Spouse Works

Complete this step if you (1) hold more than one job at a time, or (2) are married filing jointly and your spouse also works. The correct amount of withholding depends on income earned from all of these jobs.

Do **only one** of the following.

(a) Use the estimator at *www.irs.gov/W4App* for the most accurate withholding for this step (and Steps 3–4). If you or your spouse have self-employment income, use this option; **or**

(b) Use the Multiple Jobs Worksheet on page 3 and enter the result in Step 4(c) below; **or**

(c) If there are only two jobs total, you may check this box. Do the same on Form W-4 for the other job. This option is generally more accurate than Step 2(b) if pay at the lower paying job is more than half of the pay at the higher paying job. Otherwise, Step 2(b) is more accurate . . . . . ☐

Complete Steps 3–4(b) on Form W-4 for only ONE of these jobs. Leave those steps blank for the other jobs. (Your withholding will be most accurate if you complete Steps 3–4(b) on the Form W-4 for the highest paying job.)

Step 3: Claim Dependent and Other Credits

If your total income will be $200,000 or less ($400,000 or less if married filing jointly):

(a) Multiply the number of qualifying children under age 17 by $2,200 . . . . . **3(a)** $

(b) Multiply the number of other dependents by $500 . . . **3(b)** $

Add the amounts from Steps 3(a) and 3(b), plus the amount for other credits. Enter the total here . . . . . **3** $

Step 4: Other Adjustments

(a) Other income (not from jobs). If you want tax withheld for other income you expect this year that won't have withholding, enter the amount of other income here. This may include interest, dividends, and retirement income . . . . . **4(a)** $

(b) Deductions. Use the Deductions Worksheet on page 4 to determine the amount of deductions you may claim, which will reduce your withholding. (If you skip this line, your withholding will be based on the standard deduction.) Enter the result here . . **4(b)** $

(c) Extra withholding. Enter any additional tax you want withheld each **pay period** . . **4(c)** $

Exempt from withholding

I claim exemption from withholding for 2026, and I certify that I meet **both** of the conditions for exemption for 2026. See *Exemption from withholding* on page 2. I understand I will need to submit a new Form W-4 for 2027 . ☐

Step 5: Sign Here

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that this certificate, to the best of my knowledge and belief, is true, correct, and complete.

Employee's signature (This form is not valid unless you sign it.) **Date**

Employers Only

Employer's name and address	First date of employment	Employer identification number (EIN)
Merced City School District **444 West 23rd Street** **Merced, CA 95340**		**770572124**

General Instructions

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise noted.

Future Developments

For the latest information about developments related to Form W-4, such as legislation enacted after it was published, go to *www.irs.gov/FormW4*.

Purpose of Form

Complete Form W-4 so that your employer can withhold the correct federal income tax from your pay. If too little is withheld, you will generally owe tax when you file your tax return and may owe a penalty. If too much is withheld, you will generally be due a refund. Complete a new Form W-4 when changes to your personal or financial situation would change the entries on the form. For more information on withholding and when you must furnish a new Form W-4, see Pub. 505, Tax Withholding and Estimated Tax.

Exemption from withholding. You may claim exemption from withholding for 2026 if you meet both of the following conditions: you had no federal income tax liability in 2025 **and** you expect to have no federal income tax liability in 2026. You had no federal income tax liability in 2025 if (1) your total tax on line 24 on your 2025 Form 1040 or 1040-SR is zero (or less than the sum of lines 27a, 28, 29, and 30), or (2) you were not required to file a return because your income was below the filing threshold for your correct filing status. If you claim exemption, you will have no income tax withheld from your paycheck and may owe taxes and penalties when you file your 2026 tax return. To claim exemption from withholding, certify that you meet both of the conditions by checking the box in the *Exempt from withholding* section. Then, complete Steps 1(a), 1(b), and 5. Do not complete any other steps. You will need to submit a new Form W-4 by February 16, 2027.

Your privacy. Steps 2(c) and 4(a) ask for information regarding income you received from sources other than the job associated with this Form W-4. If you have concerns with providing the information asked for in Step 2(c), you may choose Step 2(b) as an alternative; if you have concerns with providing the information asked for in Step 4(a), you may enter an additional amount you want withheld per pay period in Step 4(c) as an alternative.

When to use the estimator. Consider using the estimator at *www.irs.gov/W4App* if you:

1. Are submitting this form after the beginning of the year;

2. Expect to work only part of the year;

3. Have changes during the year in your marital status, number of jobs for you (and/or your spouse if married filing jointly), or number of dependents, or changes in your deductions or credits;

4. Receive dividends, capital gains, social security, bonuses, or business income, or are subject to the Additional Medicare Tax or Net Investment Income Tax; or

5. Prefer the most accurate withholding for multiple job situations.

TIP: Have your most recent pay stub(s) from this year available when using the estimator to account for federal income tax that has already been withheld this year. At the beginning of next year, use the estimator again to recheck your withholding.

Self-employment. Generally, you will owe both income and self-employment taxes on any self-employment income you receive separate from the wages you receive as an employee. If you want to pay these taxes through withholding from your wages, use the estimator at *www.irs.gov/W4App* to figure the amount to have withheld.

Nonresident alien. If you're a nonresident alien, see Notice 1392, Supplemental Form W-4 Instructions for Nonresident Aliens, before completing this form.

Specific Instructions

Step 1(c). Check your anticipated filing status. This will determine the standard deduction and tax rates used to compute your withholding.

Step 2. Use this step if you (1) have more than one job at the same time, or (2) are married filing jointly and you and your spouse both work. Submit a separate Form W-4 for each job.

Option **(a)** most accurately calculates the additional tax you need to have withheld, while option **(b)** does so with a little less accuracy.

Instead, if you (and your spouse) have a total of only two jobs, you may check the box in option **(c)**. The box must also be checked on the Form W-4 for the other job. If the box is checked, the standard deduction and tax brackets will be cut in half for each job to calculate withholding. This option is accurate for jobs with similar pay; otherwise, more tax than necessary may be withheld, and this extra amount of tax withheld will be larger the greater the difference in pay is between the two jobs.



Multiple jobs. *Complete Steps 3 through 4(b) on only one Form W-4. Withholding will be most accurate if you do this on the Form W-4 for the highest paying job.*

Step 3. This step provides instructions for determining the amount of the child tax credit and the credit for other dependents that you may be able to claim when you file your tax return. To qualify for the child tax credit, the child must be under age 17 as of December 31, must be your dependent who generally lives with you for more than half the year, and must have the required social security number. You (and/or your spouse if married filing jointly) must have the required social security number to claim certain credits. You may be able to claim a credit for other dependents for whom a child tax credit can't be claimed, such as an older child or a qualifying relative. For additional eligibility requirements for these credits, see Pub. 501, Dependents, Standard Deduction, and Filing Information. You can also include **other tax credits** for which you are eligible in this step, such as the foreign tax credit and the education tax credits. To do so, add an estimate of the amount for the year to your credits for dependents and enter the total amount in Step 3. Including these credits will increase your paycheck and reduce the amount of any refund you may receive when you file your tax return.

Step 4.

Step 4(a). Enter in this step the total of your other estimated income for the year, if any. You shouldn't include income from any jobs or self-employment. If you complete Step 4(a), you likely won't have to make estimated tax payments for that income. If you prefer to pay estimated tax rather than having tax on other income withheld from your paycheck, see Form 1040-ES, Estimated Tax for Individuals.

Step 4(b). Enter in this step the amount from the Deductions Worksheet, line 15, if you expect to claim deductions other than the basic standard deduction on your 2026 tax return and want to reduce your withholding to account for these deductions. This includes both itemized deductions and other deductions such as for qualified tips, overtime compensation, and passenger vehicle loan interest; student loan interest; IRAs; and seniors. You (and/or your spouse if married filing jointly) must have the required social security number to claim certain deductions. For additional eligibility requirements, see Pub. 501.

Step 4(c). Enter in this step any additional tax you want withheld from your pay **each pay period**, including any amounts from the Multiple Jobs Worksheet, line 4. Entering an amount here will reduce your paycheck and will either increase your refund or reduce any amount of tax that you owe when you file your tax return.

Step 2(b)—Multiple Jobs Worksheet *(Keep for your records.)*

If you choose the option in Step 2(b) on Form W-4, complete this worksheet (which calculates the total extra tax for all jobs) on **only ONE** Form W-4. Withholding will be most accurate if you complete the worksheet and enter the result on the Form W-4 for the highest paying job. To be accurate, submit a new Form W-4 for all other jobs if you have not updated your withholding since 2019.

Note: If more than one job has annual wages of more than $120,000 or there are more than three jobs, see Pub. 505 for additional tables; or, you can use the online withholding estimator at *www.irs.gov/W4App*.

1 **Two jobs.** If you have two jobs or you're married filing jointly and you and your spouse each have one job, find the amount from the appropriate table on page 5. Using the "Higher Paying Job" row and the "Lower Paying Job" column, find the value at the intersection of the two household salaries and enter that value on line 1. Then, **skip** to line 3 . . . . . **1** $

2 **Three jobs.** If you and/or your spouse have three jobs at the same time, complete lines 2a, 2b, and 2c below. Otherwise, skip to line 3.

a Find the amount from the appropriate table on page 5 using the annual wages from the highest paying job in the "Higher Paying Job" row and the annual wages for your next highest paying job in the "Lower Paying Job" column. Find the value at the intersection of the two household salaries and enter that value on line 2a . . . . . **2a** $

b Add the annual wages of the two highest paying jobs from line 2a together and use the total as the wages in the "Higher Paying Job" row and use the annual wages for your third job in the "Lower Paying Job" column to find the amount from the appropriate table on page 5 and enter this amount on line 2b . . . . . **2b** $

c Add the amounts from lines 2a and 2b and enter the result on line 2c . . . . . **2c** $

3 Enter the number of pay periods per year for the highest paying job. For example, if that job pays weekly, enter 52; if it pays every other week, enter 26; if it pays monthly, enter 12, etc. **3**

4 **Divide** the annual amount on line 1 or line 2c by the number of pay periods on line 3. Enter this amount here and in **Step 4(c)** of Form W-4 for the highest paying job (plus any other additional amount you want withheld) . . . . . **4** $

Step 4(b)—Deductions Worksheet *(Keep for your records.)*

See the Instructions for Schedule 1-A (Form 1040) for more information about whether you qualify for the deductions on lines 1a, 1b, 1c, 3a, and 3b.

1 Deductions for qualified tips, overtime compensation, and passenger vehicle loan interest.

- **a** **Qualified tips.** If your total income is less than $150,000 ($300,000 if married filing jointly), enter an estimate of your qualified tips up to $25,000 . . . . . **1a** $
- **b** **Qualified overtime compensation.** If your total income is less than $150,000 ($300,000 if married filing jointly), enter an estimate of your qualified overtime compensation up to $12,500 ($25,000 if married filing jointly) of the "and-a-half" portion of time-and-a-half compensation . . . . . **1b** $
- **c** **Qualified passenger vehicle loan interest.** If your total income is less than $100,000 ($200,000 if married filing jointly), enter an estimate of your qualified passenger vehicle loan interest up to $10,000 **1c** $

2 Add lines 1a, 1b, and 1c. Enter the result here . . . . . **2** $

3 **Seniors age 65 or older.** If your total income is less than $75,000 ($150,000 if married filing jointly):

- **a** Enter $6,000 if you are age 65 or older before the end of the year . . . . . **3a** $
- **b** Enter $6,000 if your spouse is age 65 or older before the end of the year and has a social security number valid for employment . . . . . **3b** $

4 Add lines 3a and 3b. Enter the result here . . . . . **4** $

5 Enter an estimate of your student loan interest, deductible IRA contributions, educator expenses, alimony paid, and certain other adjustments from Schedule 1 (Form 1040), Part II. See Pub. 505 for more information . . . . . **5** $

6 **Itemized deductions.** Enter an estimate of your 2026 itemized deductions from Schedule A (Form 1040). Such deductions may include qualifying:

- **a** **Medical and dental expenses.** Enter expenses in excess of 7.5% (0.075) of your total income . **6a** $
- **b** **State and local taxes.** If your total income is less than $505,000 ($252,500 if married filing separately), enter state and local taxes paid up to $40,400 ($20,200 if married filing separately) . **6b** $
- **c** **Home mortgage interest.** If your home acquisition debt is less than $750,000 ($375,000 if married filing separately), enter your home mortgage interest expense (including mortgage insurance premiums) . . . . . **6c** $
- **d** **Gifts to charities.** Enter contributions in excess of 0.5% (0.005) of your total income . . . . **6d** $
- **e** **Other itemized deductions.** Enter the amount for other itemized deductions . . . . . **6e** $

7 Add lines 6a, 6b, 6c, 6d, and 6e. Enter the result here . . . . . **7** $

8 **Limitation on itemized deductions.**

- **a** Enter your total income . . . . . **8a** $
- **b** Subtract line 4 from line 8a. If line 4 is greater than line 8a, enter -0- here and on line 10. Skip line 9 **8b** $

9 Enter:
- $768,700 if you're married filing jointly or a qualifying surviving spouse
- $640,600 if you're single or head of household
- $384,350 if you're married filing separately

. . . . . **9** $

10 If line 9 is greater than line 8b, enter the amount from line 7. Otherwise, multiply line 7 by 94% (0.94) and enter the result here . . . . . **10** $

11 **Standard deduction.**

Enter:
- $32,200 if you're married filing jointly or a qualifying surviving spouse
- $24,150 if you're head of household
- $16,100 if you're single or married filing separately

. . . . . **11** $

12 **Cash gifts to charities.** If you take the standard deduction, enter cash contributions up to $1,000 ($2,000 if married filing jointly) . . . . . **12** $

13 Add lines 11 and 12. Enter the result here . . . . . **13** $

14 If line 10 is greater than line 13, subtract line 11 from line 10 and enter the result here. If line 13 is greater than line 10, enter the amount from line 12 . . . . . **14** $

15 Add lines 2, 4, 5, and 14. Enter the result here and in Step 4(b) of Form W-4 . . . . . **15** $

Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice. We ask for the information on this form to carry out the Internal Revenue laws of the United States. Internal Revenue Code sections 3402(f)(2) and 6109 and their regulations require you to provide this information; your employer uses it to determine your federal income tax withholding. Failure to provide a properly completed form will result in your being treated as a single person with no other entries on the form; providing fraudulent information may subject you to penalties. Routine uses of this information include giving it to the Department of Justice for civil and criminal litigation; to cities, states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. commonwealths and territories for use in administering their tax laws; and to the Department of Health and Human Services for use in the National Directory of New Hires. We may also disclose this information to other countries under a tax treaty, to federal and state agencies to enforce federal nontax criminal laws, or to federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies to combat terrorism.

You are not required to provide the information requested on a form that is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act unless the form displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a form or its instructions must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any Internal Revenue law. Generally, tax returns and return information are confidential, as required by Code section 6103.

The average time and expenses required to complete and file this form will vary depending on individual circumstances. For estimated averages, see the instructions for your income tax return.

If you have suggestions for making this form simpler, we would be happy to hear from you. See the instructions for your income tax return.

Married Filing Jointly or Qualifying Surviving Spouse

Higher Paying Job Annual Taxable Wage & Salary	Lower Paying Job Annual Taxable Wage & Salary											
	$0 - 9,999	$10,000 - 19,999	$20,000 - 29,999	$30,000 - 39,999	$40,000 - 49,999	$50,000 - 59,999	$60,000 - 69,999	$70,000 - 79,999	$80,000 - 89,999	$90,000 - 99,999	$100,000 - 109,999	$110,000 - 120,000
$0 - 9,999	$0	$0	$480	$850	$850	$1,020	$1,020	$1,020	$1,020	$1,020	$1,020	$1,020
$10,000 - 19,999	0	480	1,480	1,850	2,050	2,220	2,220	2,220	2,220	2,220	2,220	2,620
$20,000 - 29,999	480	1,480	2,480	3,050	3,250	3,420	3,420	3,420	3,420	3,420	3,820	4,820
$30,000 - 39,999	850	1,850	3,050	3,620	3,820	3,990	3,990	3,990	3,990	4,390	5,390	6,390
$40,000 - 49,999	850	2,050	3,250	3,820	4,020	4,190	4,190	4,190	4,590	5,590	6,590	7,590
$50,000 - 59,999	1,020	2,220	3,420	3,990	4,190	4,360	4,360	4,760	5,760	6,760	7,760	8,760
$60,000 - 69,999	1,020	2,220	3,420	3,990	4,190	4,360	4,760	5,760	6,760	7,760	8,760	9,760
$70,000 - 79,999	1,020	2,220	3,420	3,990	4,190	4,760	5,760	6,760	7,760	8,760	9,760	10,760
$80,000 - 99,999	1,020	2,220	3,420	4,240	5,440	6,610	7,610	8,610	9,610	10,610	11,610	12,610
$100,000 - 149,999	1,870	4,070	6,270	7,840	9,040	10,210	11,210	12,210	13,210	14,210	15,360	16,560
$150,000 - 239,999	1,870	4,100	6,500	8,270	9,670	11,040	12,240	13,440	14,640	15,840	17,040	18,240
$240,000 - 319,999	2,040	4,440	6,840	8,610	10,010	11,380	12,580	13,780	14,980	16,180	17,380	18,580
$320,000 - 364,999	2,040	4,440	6,840	8,610	10,010	11,380	12,580	13,860	15,860	17,860	19,860	21,860
$365,000 - 524,999	2,720	5,920	9,390	12,260	14,760	17,230	19,530	21,830	24,130	26,430	28,730	31,030
$525,000 and over	3,140	6,840	10,540	13,610	16,310	18,980	21,480	23,980	26,480	28,980	31,480	33,990

Single or Married Filing Separately

Higher Paying Job Annual Taxable Wage & Salary	Lower Paying Job Annual Taxable Wage & Salary											
	$0 - 9,999	$10,000 - 19,999	$20,000 - 29,999	$30,000 - 39,999	$40,000 - 49,999	$50,000 - 59,999	$60,000 - 69,999	$70,000 - 79,999	$80,000 - 89,999	$90,000 - 99,999	$100,000 - 109,999	$110,000 - 120,000
$0 - 9,999	$90	$850	$1,020	$1,020	$1,020	$1,070	$1,870	$1,870	$1,870	$1,870	$1,870	$1,970
$10,000 - 19,999	850	1,780	1,980	1,980	2,030	3,030	3,830	3,830	3,830	3,830	3,930	4,130
$20,000 - 29,999	1,020	1,980	2,180	2,230	3,230	4,230	5,030	5,030	5,030	5,130	5,330	5,530
$30,000 - 39,999	1,020	1,980	2,230	3,230	4,230	5,230	6,030	6,030	6,130	6,330	6,530	6,730
$40,000 - 59,999	1,020	2,880	4,080	5,080	6,080	7,080	7,950	8,150	8,350	8,550	8,750	8,950
$60,000 - 79,999	1,870	3,830	5,030	6,030	7,100	8,300	9,300	9,500	9,700	9,900	10,100	10,300
$80,000 - 99,999	1,870	3,830	5,100	6,300	7,500	8,700	9,700	9,900	10,100	10,300	10,500	10,700
$100,000 - 124,999	2,030	4,190	5,590	6,790	7,990	9,190	10,190	10,390	10,590	10,940	11,940	12,940
$125,000 - 149,999	2,040	4,200	5,600	6,800	8,000	9,200	10,200	10,950	11,950	12,950	13,950	14,950
$150,000 - 174,999	2,040	4,200	5,600	6,800	8,150	10,150	11,950	12,950	13,950	14,950	16,170	17,470
$175,000 - 199,999	2,040	4,200	6,150	8,150	10,150	12,150	13,950	15,020	16,320	17,620	18,920	20,220
$200,000 - 249,999	2,720	5,680	7,880	10,140	12,440	14,740	16,840	18,140	19,440	20,740	22,040	23,340
$250,000 - 449,999	2,970	6,230	8,730	11,030	13,330	15,630	17,730	19,030	20,330	21,630	22,930	24,240
$450,000 and over	3,140	6,600	9,300	11,800	14,300	16,800	19,100	20,600	22,100	23,600	25,100	26,610

Head of Household

Higher Paying Job Annual Taxable Wage & Salary	Lower Paying Job Annual Taxable Wage & Salary											
	$0 - 9,999	$10,000 - 19,999	$20,000 - 29,999	$30,000 - 39,999	$40,000 - 49,999	$50,000 - 59,999	$60,000 - 69,999	$70,000 - 79,999	$80,000 - 89,999	$90,000 - 99,999	$100,000 - 109,999	$110,000 - 120,000
$0 - 9,999	$0	$280	$850	$950	$1,020	$1,020	$1,020	$1,020	$1,560	$1,870	$1,870	$1,870
$10,000 - 19,999	280	1,280	1,950	2,150	2,220	2,220	2,220	2,760	3,760	4,070	4,070	4,210
$20,000 - 29,999	850	1,950	2,720	2,920	2,980	2,980	3,520	4,520	5,520	5,830	5,980	6,180
$30,000 - 39,999	950	2,150	2,920	3,120	3,180	3,720	4,720	5,720	6,720	7,180	7,380	7,580
$40,000 - 59,999	1,020	2,220	2,980	3,570	4,640	5,640	6,640	7,750	8,950	9,460	9,660	9,860
$60,000 - 79,999	1,020	2,610	4,370	5,570	6,640	7,750	8,950	10,150	11,350	11,860	12,060	12,260
$80,000 - 99,999	1,870	4,070	5,830	7,150	8,410	9,610	10,810	12,010	13,210	13,720	13,920	14,120
$100,000 - 124,999	1,870	4,270	6,230	7,630	8,900	10,100	11,300	12,500	13,700	14,210	14,720	15,720
$125,000 - 149,999	2,040	4,440	6,400	7,800	9,070	10,270	11,470	12,670	14,580	15,890	16,890	17,890
$150,000 - 174,999	2,040	4,440	6,400	7,800	9,070	10,580	12,580	14,580	16,580	17,890	18,890	20,170
$175,000 - 199,999	2,040	4,440	6,400	8,510	10,580	12,580	14,580	16,580	18,710	20,320	21,620	22,920
$200,000 - 249,999	2,720	5,920	8,680	10,900	13,270	15,570	17,870	20,170	22,470	24,080	25,380	26,680
$250,000 - 449,999	2,970	6,470	9,540	12,040	14,410	16,710	19,010	21,310	23,610	25,220	26,520	27,820
$450,000 and over	3,140	6,840	10,110	12,810	15,380	17,880	20,380	22,880	25,380	27,190	28,690	30,190