Arizona School Tax-Credit FAQs

Q: What is it?
A: Arizona Tax Law ARS 43-1089.01 allows Arizona taxpayers to claim a credit of up to $200 per single taxpayer or $400 per household if you contribute to extracurricular activities or character education programs in the Arizona public or charter school of your choice.

Q: What are extracurricular activities?
A: Extracurricular activities are school-sponsored, optional activities that require enrolled students to pay a fee for participation. Generally, any optional, noncredit, recreational or educational activities that supplement the educational program of the school are considered to be extracurricular activities per ARS 15-342(24).

Q: What is a character education program?
A: Each district/LEA may develop its own course of study for each grade but, at a minimum, a character education program will include: Instruction in the definition and application of six character traits; Use of activities, discussion and presentations to illustrate and reinforce the application of the character traits, and; Presentations by teachers/mentors who demonstrate character traits.

Q: How much can I give?
A: Married couples filing jointly may contribute up to $400 and individual filers may contribute up to $200.

Q: How does it work?
A: Make your contribution to ACE and/or YouthWorks Charter High Schools by 4/15/2020. TYD will send you a receipt via postal mail or by email for your contribution. When you file your taxes and calculate your state liability, you may deduct the full amount of your donation.

Q: What if I owe the State of Arizona?
A: For example: If you have a remaining State liability of $1,000 and you donate a $400 school tax-credit, you can immediately reduce that balance in liability to $600.

Q: What if the State of Arizona owes me?
A: For example: If the State owes you a refund of $500 and you donate a $400 tax-credit, you can increase your refund to $900.

Q: Is there a minimum State income liability applicable?
A: Your minimum State income liability must be greater than your tax credit contribution to receive a credit.

Q: Are there additional costs to me or fees associated with the school tax-credit?
A: No.

Q: Can my friends and family make a school tax-credit contribution to ACE and YouthWorks Charter High Schools?
A: Yes! Anyone who pays taxes to the State of Arizona can take full advantage of the school tax-credit to the school of their choice!

Q: If I make a school tax-credit contribution, will it affect other tax-credit contributions I make?
A: Contributing to public and charter schools through this tax-credit does not affect other tax-credits such as credits for contributing to private schools or organizations that serve the working poor.

Visit TucsonYouth.org/Arizona-School-Tax-Credit for AZ Dept of Revenue Guidelines for the Public School Tax-Credit and/or 43-1089.01. Tax credit, public school fees and contributions; definitions