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Media Contact: Maura Kownacki  
Phone: 312-814-1777  
E-mail: [Maura.Kownacki@Illinois.gov](mailto:Maura.Kownacki@Illinois.gov)

## **Eligible Back-to-School Expenses Could Yield Tax Benefits for Parents and Educators**

**Chicago** - With the new school year growing closer, the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR) is reminding parents, guardians, and educators that they may be able to claim school expenses for K-12 students on their 2022 Illinois individual income tax returns.

“Educational expenses can be costly for both parents and educators alike, so I encourage them to take advantage of the valuable savings provided through both the Illinois Education Expense Credit (for parents) and the Instructional Materials and Supply Credit (for teachers),” **said IDOR Director David Harris.**” It is important for them to remember to keep their receipts for any qualifying expenses, so they are accessible when it comes time to file their taxes.”

**The Illinois Education Expense Credit** allows parents or legal guardians of a full-time K-12 student under the age of 21, to take a 25% tax credit on qualified education expenses over \$250 this year. The total credit may not exceed \$750, regardless of the number of qualifying students.

Qualified educational expenses include tuition, book, and lab fees in excess of \$250 paid to the school where the student is enrolled on a full-time basis. For home schooled students - book rental and lab fees greater than \$250 are eligible when attending a qualified home school program.

Based on the latest final IL-1040 return data, over 192,500 taxpayers claimed the Illinois Education Expense Credit in Tax Year 2021. The total amount claimed was more than \$63 million, with an average credit of \$327.

**The Instructional Materials and Supply Tax Credit** allows eligible teachers of full-time K-12 students to receive a tax break for qualified expenses on classroom materials paid during the taxable year. To qualify, taxpayers must be teachers, instructors, counselors, principals, or aides in a qualified school for at least 900 hours during a school year. They can claim a credit up to \$250 for qualified expenses they paid in the current taxable year, with the amount increasing to \$500 in 2023. If spouses are both educators and are filing jointly, the maximum credit is \$500.

Based on the latest final IL-1040 return data, over 60,000 taxpayers claimed the Instructional Materials and Supply Tax Credit in Tax Year 2021. The total amount claimed was more than \$15.6 million.

To learn more about the Illinois Education Expense Credit, please read IDOR **Publication 132** and **Publication 119** (for home schooled students) located on IDOR's website [tax.illinois.gov](http://tax.illinois.gov).

For additional information on the Instructional Materials Supply and Tax Credit, please see [IDOR's Q & A](#).