



SUPPORT HELENA PUBLIC EDUCATION and save money on your tax bill!

The Montana Legislature passed House Bill 279 in 2021. This bill allowed Montana taxpayers to receive a dollar-for-dollar credit on their state income taxes, up to \$200,000 per year for donations to Montana public school districts to support Innovative Educational Programs. Married taxpayers filing jointly may take a tax credit of up to \$400,000. The response to this opportunity in its first year was huge. Individual Montana taxpayers donated \$1 million to our public schools. In the coming year, the statewide tax credit limit will increase to \$6 million. Donated amounts may not exceed the taxpayer's income tax liability but may be carried forward for 3 years.

YOUR donation can help Helena Public Schools expand our innovative educational programs that benefit local students through enhanced:

- Transformational and advanced learning opportunities
- Programs, services and equipment for all students
- Work-based learning partnerships for students
- Post-secondary credits and/or career certifications for students
- Technologies that improve student experiences and opportunities

Make your donation early!

In its first year, Montanans were so excited to donate to their local public schools that the 2022 credit limit of \$1 million was reached in the first six minutes of the Department of Revenue (DOR)'s donation portal opening. Twenty-three taxpayers received credits, and eight school districts received donated funds. Due to the overwhelming popularity of this program, the procedures to accept donations were modified for future school years. School districts may begin entering donations into the portal on January 15, 2025, until the \$6 million credit limit is exhausted.

Interested in donating?

Here's how it works

- When you make a cash donation to Helena Public Schools for Innovative Educational Programs, print out the form at this link, which includes all of the required information to qualify for the tax credit.
- Bring the completed form and your donation to the Helena Public Schools Business Office at 1325 Poplar Street.
- Helena Public Schools will enter the information from your form, together with the amount donated, into the DOR Education Donations portal.
- Once Helena Public Schools records the donation in the DOR Portal, the DOR will preapprove the donation (so long as the individual and statewide thresholds noted above have not been exceeded) and you will receive a confirmation number along with a receipt that you will file with your 2025 taxes.
- Your donation will be returned if it is not approved by the DOR.

The statewide aggregate threshold of \$6 million is tracked on the DOR Education Donations Portal homepage and anyone can view how much of the credit has been reserved, how much is available, and how much is pending.

If you choose to donate directly through the Department of Revenue Portal without assistance from the District Business Office, please note that the following information will be required: name; last four digits of your social security number (SSN) or federal employer identification number (FEIN); mailing address; physical address; email address.

Questions?

If you're interested in donating or have questions, please contact: Helena Public Schools Business Administrator Janelle Mickelson, (406) 324-2040 or jmickelson@helenaschools.org

Dona Losett, Montana Department of Revenue, (406) 444-1991 or dona.losett@mt.gov.

You may also find additional information by scanning this QR code or at the link below:



<https://bit.ly/24EdTaxCredit>