



Dear Private and Independent School Advocate,

Please find important legislative information and pass along to staff, school families and supporters.

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If you currently send your child or children to a non-public school in Minnesota, you are prohibited from using your Minnesota K-12 education tax credit for your most significant education cost: tuition!

Minnesota tax law currently prohibits taxpayers from using their education tax credit for non-public school tuition. Fortunately, legislation has been introduced that could change that, by simply adding two words to Minnesota tax law: "tuition and."

The words "tuition and" have made it into the current version of House Omnibus Tax bill, HF 848 (originally proposed in bill HF 798/SF 1224). The House Omnibus Tax bill under consideration also increases the overall dollar amounts that can be taken as an education tax deduction or credit for parents.

Including tuition as an eligible expense for a tax credit, and increasing the dollar amount level of K-12 education tax deductions and credits, relieves some of the financial burden that prevents families from enrolling in a private or independent school.

Contact your legislators TODAY to urge them to support expanded education tax credit and deduction provisions, like those found in the current House Omnibus Tax bill, HF 848. [\(Use this link to find your legislators names and contact information.\)](#)

The language currently being considered within the House Omnibus Tax bill HF 848 for the new K-12 education tax credit provisions would:

1. Extend the tax credit allowance to include tuition as a qualifying education expense (currently, it only includes items like books, supplies, music lessons, and instrument rental);
2. Increase the maximum credit amount from \$1,000 to \$1,500 per child; and,
3. Increase the income level eligibility for the full credit from \$33,500 to \$47,500.

The new language for the K-12 education tax deductions would apply to all families at all income levels and would:

1. Increase the maximum tax deduction level for kids in K-6 from \$1,626 to \$2,500 per child,
2. Increase the maximum tax deduction level for kids in 7-12 from \$2,500 to \$3,750 per child; and,
3. Include automatic increases on the amount deductible based on inflation.

*Additional resources:*

- Current Minnesota Education Tax Deduction background, [click here](#)
- Current Minnesota K-12 Education Tax Credit background, [click here](#)
- Minnesota House research bill summary for K-12 education tax deduction and credit increase, [click here](#)

Here is what you, staff, school families and advocates can do:

**TAKE ACTION**

If you have...

**ONE MINUTE:** Send an email to your state legislators, using the message prompts below, asking them to support expanded education tax credit and deduction provisions in the Omnibus Tax bill.

**THREE MINUTES:** Call your legislators and ask them to support expanded education tax credit and deduction provisions, like those currently in the House Omnibus Tax bill.

**Share this message with them:**

"Minnesota should allow for fair access to education options for all parents, so that they are able to access more school options that fit their child's educational needs. Expanded education tax credit and deduction provisions, such as those found in the current version of the House Omnibus Tax bill, put more education options in reach for kids and their parents."

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MISF is a partner in the Opportunity for All Kids coalition. This robust coalition comprises diverse religious and non-religious organizational members. We have joined forces with the renewed conviction that Minnesota must afford parents greater opportunities to choose the most fitting school for their child's needs.

By joining this action campaign you are letting your legislator know that these provisions are important to you and that you would appreciate their support of them as well. This legislation is a very significant opportunity for independent and private schools and families across Minnesota. This is the time to take action and contact your legislators. Thank you for bringing your voice to the educational dialogue.



Tim Benz, President
Minnesota Independent School Forum