

ECA INFORMATION

What is a tax credit?

A tax credit is a dollar-for-dollar reduction in the actual tax owed. For example, if you owe \$800 in state income taxes and you donate \$400 to a public school for extracurricular activities, you may subtract the \$400 from your tax bill and pay the state just \$400.

What is an extracurricular activity?

Extracurricular activity means any optional, non-credit educational or recreational activity that supplements the education program of the school. Activities such as sports, visual and performing arts, special programs, character building, field trips, clubs, outdoor education, gifted programs, or classroom enrichment programs can be funded with tax credit money.

Extracurricular activities help children develop qualities such as leadership, team play, and cooperation, as well as, provide safe, supervised activities after school hours.

Who is eligible?

This tax credit is available to all Arizona individual taxpayers regardless of whether or not they have children in school. An individual can contribute and receive a tax credit for any amount up to \$200, or a couple filing jointly can contribute up to \$400.

Does all of my money go to extracurricular activities?

Yes, 100 percent of your donation goes directly to the schools for extracurricular activities that benefit students by enriching campus life and learning. None of the money is used for overhead.

Can I designate where I want my money to go?

Yes, you can say where you want your donation to go. You can choose your child's school or an extracurricular activity that they participate in. You can choose a school based on student poverty, type of activity, grade levels or location. If you want to donate to a school or an activity where not all parents can afford to contribute, you may do this.

Do I have to donate the full \$200 or \$400?

No, you may donate up to your \$200 or \$400 limit in installments during the calendar year or donate it at one time. Any individual who pays Arizona State income tax can donate - you do not need to live in the Mesa Public Schools district

This information comes from http://www2.mpsaz.org/community/eca/eca_info