

Tax Credit Funds

It is that time of year again when we are completing our tax returns and thinking about the school district tax credit program. The program allows individual taxpayers to receive up to a \$200 credit on their taxes, or \$400 per couple. Schools within the District receive dollars through this program to purchase items for extracurricular activities, which are described as “optional, noncredit, educational or recreational activities which supplement the education program of the school, whether offered before, during or after regular school hours”. Extracurricular activities that are eligible for the tax credit are those school sponsored activities that require enrolled students to pay a fee in order to participate, including fees for band uniforms, equipment or uniforms for varsity athletic activities and in-state or out-of-state trips that are solely for competitive events (A.R.S. 43-1089.01).

Locally our schools use these funds for a number of different purposes. Taxpayers can designate a school where the funds must be spent, as well as identify a particular program. Another option available is for taxpayers to designate a specific school, but leave the programmatic decision to the school itself. A third option is to simply claim “no preference” and the dollars will be used in the area of greatest need. Currently the WUSD program allows for tax credit dollars to be used for extracurricular activities (such as clubs and organizations which are school sponsored), athletics, the arts (band, choir, drama) and character education. Beyond these options taxpayers can identify other programs in which to target their funds, but they must first contact the individual school to obtain a list of eligible programs prior to taking action.

Tax credit donations must be received or post marked by December 31, 2013. The WUSD District Office is open through this date and is able to receive these funds in person. Individuals also have the option to complete the process online by visiting <http://wickenburg.revtrak.net/tek9.asp>

The process is simple in that taxpayers complete a form indicating where they would like to have their dollars spent, the individual receives a receipt to present with their tax return, and finally, the dollars are made available for extracurricular activities. This is a great program for students in the State of Arizona and it costs taxpayers nothing, assuming they paid an equal amount in state taxes during the 2013 year.

The state tax credit program also includes other local programs, such as Habitat for Humanity, the CAP office and the Wickenburg Christian Academy. Individuals can obtain a tax credit for donating to all of these programs along with the school district, and therefore bring state tax dollars back to the local community.

We encourage you to participate in the program and have a say in how your tax dollars are spent!