



Frequently Asked Questions by Donors

What is the Georgia Qualified Education Expense (GA QEE) Tax Credit Program?

The GA QEE Tax Credit Program allows Georgia residents and corporations to receive tax credits for donations to student scholarship organizations (SSOs) like Pay it Forward Scholarships. In turn, the SSOs, provide student scholarships to parents of eligible children who are attending private school. The tax credit program provides a state of Georgia, dollar-for-dollar tax credit when Georgia taxpayers request the tax credit, are approved, and then donate their tax credit to Pay it Forward Scholarships. Tax credits are available on a first-come, first served basis through the Georgia Department of Revenue (GA DOR). PIFS requests tax credits from the GA DOR on behalf of donors annually in January. Tax credit donations must be made within 60 days of being approved. Taxpayers decide what school they want their funds to benefit. The QEE Tax Credit program funds scholarships for students at approved private schools in Georgia.

How do I apply for a GA QEE Tax Credit through Pay it Forward Scholarships?

Complete the online application at <https://www.payitforwardscholarships.com/donate>

What is the deadline to apply for a GA QEE Tax Credit through Pay it Forward Scholarships?

December 31st for the upcoming tax year. Ex: December 31, 2020 for the 2021 QEE Tax Credit

When will Pay it Forward Scholarships submit my QEE Tax Credit request to the GA DOR?

PIFS will submit GA QEE tax credit requests on January 1st or the first day as allowed each year by the GA DOR. (January 4, 2021)

How will I know if my QEE Tax Credit request is approved?

According to Georgia law, the GA DOR has 30 days to approve your request once it has been submitted. Currently, we have found the Department of Revenue is providing approval within approximately 2-3 weeks. Taxpayers are notified by letter from the GA DOR that their tax credit has been approved and at what amount. Pay it Forward is also notified of the taxpayers' approval and we send out emails with approval information as soon as we receive that information from the GA DOR.

How and when do I send my donation?

Your tax credit donation should be made within 60 days of receiving the approval letter from the GA DOR. We estimate that this deadline is approximately March 30th of each year. You can make your donation via credit card (see the PIFS website) or by mailing a check to: Pay it Forward Scholarships, 615 Oak Street, Suite A, Gainesville, GA 30501.

Is there a processing fee if funds are donated using a credit card?

Yes, PayPal, the credit card platform PIFS uses, charges a small processing fee of 2.2% of the total transaction for the convenience of using your credit card for your tax credit donation. The fee is deducted from your donation, reducing the amount that is sent to the school. If you wish for the maximum amount possible to go to the school, thus avoiding this fee, you can write and mail a check. Note: The PayPal credit card processing fee is deducted prior to PIFS administrative costs being removed.

How much of my donation is passed onto the designated school?

PIFS passes on 92% of each tax credit donation to the designated school. The state of Georgia limits student scholarship organizations, like PIFS, to a maximum of 8% of each donation that we are allowed to keep to cover administrative costs.

How do I get a receipt so that I can claim the tax credit on my tax return?

PIFS provides the Georgia Form IT-QEE-SSO1 to taxpayers who made a contribution to our student scholarship organization. This receipt/form is emailed to taxpayers by January 31st for the previous year's donations. If a 2020 receipt is needed prior to January 31, 2021 please send an email to info@payitforwardscholarships.com.

What if I just became a Georgia resident and haven't yet filed a tax return with the state of Georgia?

If you have never filed a tax return with the State of Georgia, and you want to take advantage of the GA QEE Tax Credit, you must call the GA DOR Taxpayer Services Call Center at 1-877-423-6711 to get registered.

Can I apply for a Pay it Forward Scholarship for my child?

Yes! Parents must complete an online scholarship application at <https://www.payitforwardscholarships.com/scholarship>. The deadline is December 31st for the upcoming scholarship cycle. Ex: December 31, 2020 for the 2021 Pay it Forward Scholarship. For more information about the scholarship program please see the document entitled "Frequently Asked Questions by Parents."