

# Taxpayers



**Q:** What is the benefit of contributing to the ALEF Fund?

**A:** First, you are supporting Jewish Education.

Second, since you receive a State of Georgia Income Tax Credit equal to the amount contributed, there is virtually no cost, and in some cases, you can reduce your net federal and state income taxes.

Georgia taxpayers can redirect taxes up to the following amounts:

Married	\$2,500
Single	\$1,000
Married filing separately	\$1,250
Members of single or multi-member LLC's, Partners in Partnerships, and Shareholders in S-corporations	\$10,000
Trusts and Estates can offset up to 75% of their State income tax	
Corporations can offset up to 75% of their State income tax	

***Please note the following with respect to the \$10,000 limit:***

If the individual taxpayer is a member, partner, or shareholder in more than one pass through entity, the total credit allowed cannot exceed \$10,000;

The individual taxpayer decides which pass through entities to include when computing Georgia income for purposes of the qualified education expense credit. You can include those with income and exclude those with losses.

All Georgia income, loss, and expense from the taxpayer selected pass-through entities will be combined to determine Georgia income for purposes of the qualified education expense credit. Such combined Georgia income shall be multiplied by 6% to determine the tax that was actually paid.

If the taxpayer is filing a joint return, the taxpayer's spouse may also claim a credit for their ownership interests and shall separately be eligible for a credit resulting in a married couple filing jointly to contribute up to \$20,000. The applications must be submitted separately.

If the taxpayer(s) chooses to be preapproved under this option, they are not allowed the additional amounts normally allowed an individual.

If the taxpayer is preapproved for an amount that exceeds the amount that is calculated as allowed when the return is filed, the excess amount cannot be claimed by the taxpayer and cannot be carried forward.

The new limit will be reduced by any amounts previously approved.

**Q:** Which schools are participants in the ALEF Fund?

**A:** ALEF Fund Partner Schools:

- Ahava Early Learning Center
- The Alfred & Adele Davis Academy
- Atlanta Jewish Academy (Formerly GHA & Yeshiva Atlanta)
- Chaya Mushka Children's House
- Congregation Beth Jacob Preschool "BJ"
- Congregation Beth Shalom- Alefbet Preschool
- Congregation B'nai Torah Preschool
- Congregation Etz Chaim Preschool
- Felicia Penzell Weber Jewish Community High School
- The Epstein School- Solomon Schechter School of Atlanta
- JEA Preschool Savannah
- MJCCA Preschools
- Temima-The Richard and Jean Katz High School for Girls
- Temple Beth Tikvah Early Education Center
- Temple Emanu-El- Schiff Preschool
- Torah Day School of Atlanta

**Q:** Which school scholarship fund benefits from my contribution?

**A:** You can designate your contribution to one or more schools scholarship funds. You can also designate some or all of your contribution to the Undesignated Scholarship Pool.

**Q:** Can I designate some or all of my contribution to a school represented by another SSO?

**A:** Yes, just let us know. We will make sure your contribution gets where you want it to go.

**Q:** How do state credit limits affect me?

**A:** The statewide limit for the Qualified Expense Tax Credit is currently capped at \$58 Million. Tax credits are approved on a first come, first served basis. Beginning in 2015, the requests for GA tax credits was so strong that it exceeded \$58 Million. The state of Georgia had to pro-rate downward the amount of money approved to qualified taxpayers. This trend is likely to continue.

**Q:** When do I need to act in order to get the tax credit and help Jewish education?

**A:** The ALEF Fund site is currently accepting 2017 tax credit applications. We will file these electronically with the State Department of Revenue on the first business day of 2017. Completed applications are due by mid-December, 2016.

**Q:** When do I need to pay my approved tax credit?

**A:** Once your application is filed by the State, you will get a letter of approval from the Department of Revenue by mail, within 30 days of the filing.

You have exactly 60 days from the date of approval to fund your ALEF contribution. You may pay by check, payable to ALEF Fund, Inc., or by credit card. Payment can be made online by credit card, or a check can be mailed.

**Q:** Who pays the credit card fees?

**A:** The Alef Fund absorbs credit card fees- we do not charge you or the schools for using your credit card.

**Q:** I want to be part of the ALEF Fund, what is next?

**A:** Visit [www.aleffund.org](http://www.aleffund.org) to electronically complete your 2016 ALEF Fund forms OR contact the ALEF Fund Manager at 678.222.3739 for assistance. Our mailing address is **ALEF Fund, 1440 Spring St. NW, Atlanta, GA 30309. Our fax is 678.495.9927**

If you have additional tax questions, please your tax advisor or you may contact Mitchell Kopelman, CPA, and ALEF Fund Chair. Contact Mitchell at [mitchell.kopelman@hawcpa.com](mailto:mitchell.kopelman@hawcpa.com).