

School Tuition Association of Yuma, Inc. - (STAY)

P.O. Box 515 ▪ Yuma, AZ 85366 ▪ (928) 782-5786 ▪ Fax (928) 783-8251 ▪ www.azstay.org

Frequently Asked Questions

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About STAY

What is STAY?

Incorporated in 1999, School Tuition Association of Yuma, Inc. (STAY) is an AZDOR certified Corporate STO (School Tuition Organization) and is a tax-exempt charitable organization pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. (EIN #86-0947351)

Our mission is to give the opportunity to attend a private school to more children by effectively implementing the provisions of the Arizona Private School Tuition Tax Credits.

How is STAY unique?

STAY's area of focus is the Yuma community schools.

What factors does STAY consider when granting scholarships?

1. Enrollment
The applicant must be enrolled or have applied with a qualified private school in Arizona and have a tuition obligation.
2. Application Status
The applicant must have a current application on file with STAY (this must be done each school year).
3. Income
State law requires all STOs to consider income when awarding scholarships. While income is a consideration, it is not the only factor.
4. Recommendations
State law prohibits all STOs from issuing scholarships solely based on a recommendation. While recommendations are not the sole basis for awarding scholarships, they are a factor in the scholarship process. There is no guarantee that a recommendation will be followed or that the child being recommended will receive any of the funds being recommended.

**All scholarships are awarded at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Recipient Questions

How can my student(s) receive a tuition scholarship?

You will need to fill out and submit the student application found at www.azstay.org. The application window is March 1 thru February 28 of the school year. Failure to submit an application timely could prevent your child from being considered for a scholarship. All forms required by the application must be submitted to have met the application requirement. We recommend submitting the application prior to the start of the school year in which you are requesting a scholarship but not before July 1 of that school year.

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When is my child eligible?

A child is eligible immediately upon receipt and processing of the student application. Eligibility, however, does not guarantee a scholarship.

What happens if my child changes schools during the year?

- If your child has already been issued a scholarship, the pro-rated scholarship dollars must be returned by the school, to STAY.
- If the student enrolls in another qualified Arizona private school, the remaining scholarship will be sent to the new school.
- If the student left Arizona or did not go to another qualified private school, the remaining scholarship will be cancelled and will be awarded to another student or students at the school in a following award cycle.

May my child receive funds from more than one organization?

Yes. Nothing prohibits you from receiving scholarships from more than one organization.

May we exchange donations with another parent or group of parents?

No. Arranging with another parent or group of parents to recommend each other's child is a violation of both federal and state law.

How is my application information handled?

We keep all of the information received on the applications confidential. Summary information is reported to the state for recipients of scholarships. We must report how many children received scholarships based on economic groups defined by the state. This is summary information; nothing is reported to any outside group/entity with individual information.

When can I expect to receive notification of a scholarship?

We issue scholarships throughout the year as funds come available. We notify the parents at the same time that we send a check to the school. This could happen any time during the school year.

Can I get a list of people that recommended my child to send them a thank you?

We do not release donor information in any capacity. If you would like to send a thank you, please send the thank you to our office and notify us of your desire to thank the individual donors. We will forward your thanks to each of the donors with a letter from us.

Individual Donor Questions

How is my donor information handled?

All donor information is kept confidential. We will not provide any information about the donor to the recipient, school, or any organization. No information is sold or given away to any other group. We will only contact you for questions about information changes, questions about your contribution and year-end tax information.

How much of the money I contribute actually goes to scholarships?

The state law requires that at least 90% of all donations go toward student scholarships. Historically, STAY scholarships have represented 92% of donations received.

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Frequently Asked Questions

How often are scholarship awards distributed?

We issue scholarships throughout the year as funds become available. We typically issue the first round of scholarships for the school year in late July or early August. The last scholarship must be issued before the last day of the school year.

How can I contribute?

1. You can fill out a paper donation card and enclose a check or you can donate with a credit card online at www.azstay.org.
2. You can recommend a school or a student as long as the student is not your dependent.
 - While STAY accepts recommendations, we do not guarantee the recommendation will be followed. The final decision on any scholarship is at the sole discretion of the STAY Board of Directors.

How much can I contribute?

Donations are not limited, only the tax credit is limited. Donors that make donations in excess of the tax credit limit can still take a federal deduction for the full amount of the donation and a state deduction for the amount donated in excess of their credit limit.

What is my credit limit?

1. Your individual tax credits limit for 2026 is \$3,130 if your filing status is married and filing jointly.
 - Original Individual Tax Credit (Claimed on Arizona Form 323)
Tax credit up to \$1,570.
 - Switcher Individual Tax Credit (Claimed on Arizona Form 348)
Tax credit up to \$1,561.
2. Your individual tax credits limit for 2026 is \$1,571 if your filing status is not married and filing jointly.
 - Original Individual Tax Credit (Claimed on Arizona Form 323)
Tax credit up to \$787.
 - Switcher Individual Tax Credit (Claimed on Arizona Form 348)
Tax credit up to \$784.

Can I make donations to this as well as the public school tax credit?

Yes. By doing so you qualify for the tax credit of both.

Can I make donations to STAY as well as another School Tuition Organization (STO)?

Yes. However, the credit limit is based on your total donations to all STOs.

What if I donate more than my Arizona tax?

Anything over the allowable tax credit limit is considered a contribution and can be claimed on your tax return as a charitable donation. The balance of the allowable credit that exceeds your Arizona tax will be carried forward for up to five years.

What if I never owe Arizona tax at the end of the year or I get an Arizona refund?

A refund simply means that you had more in state withholdings and refundable credits than your state tax liability. It is the tax liability that matters.

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Can I donate if I don't live in Arizona?

Yes. Your donation should be deductible on your tax return as we are a federally tax exempt 501 (c)(3) charitable organization. Because every tax payer's situation is different, you should consult your tax adviser for specific tax advice concerning deductibility for you.

Is our donation also eligible for a federal income tax deduction?

We are a federally tax exempt 501 (c)(3) charitable organization. Because every tax payer's situation is different, you should consult your tax adviser for specific tax advice concerning deductibility for you.

Corporate Donor Questions

Who can donate?

- "C" Corporations and "S" Corporations

How is my donor information handled?

All donor information is kept confidential unless we are given permission to share the name. The amount will always be confidential. No information is sold or given away to any other group. We will only contact you for questions about information changes, questions about your contribution and year-end tax information.

How much of the money I contribute actually goes to scholarships?

The state law requires that at least 90% of all donations go toward student scholarships. Historically, STAY scholarships have represented 92% of donations received.

How can I contribute?

- The state requires a specific process in submitting the Application for Approval for the Corporate Income Tax Credit. Please follow the steps provided below.
 1. Contact STAY with the amount of donation you wish to make as well as any recommendations.
 - You can recommend a school, group of schools or provide no recommendation at all.
 - While STAY accepts recommendations, we do not guarantee the recommendation will be followed. Some schools do not have enough qualified students for us to meet the 90% required by law. In such cases, we will use the funds to assist additional schools.
 2. We will submit the application to Arizona Department of Revenue (ADOR) following the guidelines provided by them.
 - For each fiscal year, submissions of applications will not be accepted until 10:00 a.m. on the first business day in July. Most years, the entire allowable cap is used up in the first day or two, so donors should make sure they have all their information to STAY by June 23rd at the latest.
 3. ADOR has 20 days to respond. The request will be approved if there is still credit available under the annual state cap.
 4. STAY will notify you of the state's response.
 5. If approved, you have 20 calendar days to provide a check to STAY and for STAY to notify the state of receipt of donation.

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- Failure to meet the 20-day guideline will forfeit the approval and the application process must be repeated.

What is my credit limit?

The limit is the state cap which is \$135,000,000 for fiscal year 2026, 7/1/2025 – 6/30/2026.

How often are scholarships awards made?

We issue scholarships throughout the year as funds come available. We typically issue the first round of scholarships for the school year in late July or early August. The last scholarship must be issued before the last day of the school year.

Can I make donations to STAY as well as another School Tuition Organization (STO)?

Yes. However, they must be done through separate application processes. Each donation requires its own application.

What if I donate more than my Arizona tax?

The balance of the allowable credit that exceeds your Arizona tax will be carried forward for up to five years.