

key expenses

Tax Deductions for: Educators

PROFESSIONAL FEES & DUES:

Dues paid to professional societies related to your educational profession are deductible. These could include professional organizations, business leagues, trade associations, chambers of commerce, boards of trade and civic organizations. However, dues paid for memberships in clubs organized for business, pleasure, recreation or other social purpose are not deductible. These could include country clubs, golf and athletic clubs, airline clubs, hotel clubs and luncheon clubs.

Deductions are allowed for payments made to a union as a condition of initial or continued membership. Such payments include regular dues, but not those that go toward defraying expenses of a personal nature. The portion of union dues that goes into a strike fund is deductible, however.

CONTINUING EDUCATION:

Educational expenses are deductible under either two conditions: (1) your employer requires the education in order for you to keep your job or rate of pay; or (2) the education maintains or improves your skills in the education profession. The cost of courses that are taken to meet the minimum requirements of a job or that qualify you for a new trade or business are not deductible. NOTE: Education undertaken to qualify a classroom teacher as a school administrator or guidance counselor generally meets the criteria for educational expense deductions.

COMMUNICATION EXPENSES:

The basic local telephone service costs of the first telephone line provided in your residence are not deductible. However, toll calls from that line are deductible if the calls are business related. The costs of a second line (basic service and toll calls) in your home are also deductible if that line is used exclusively for business.

AUTO TRAVEL:

Your auto expenses are based on the number of qualified business miles you drive. Expenses for travel between business locations or daily transportation expenses between your residence and temporary work locations are deductible; include them as business miles. Expenses for your trips between home and work each day or between home and one or more regular places of work are COMMUTING expenses and are NOT deductible.

Document business miles in a record book by the following: (1) give the date and business purpose of each trip; (2) note the place to which you traveled; (3) record the number of business miles; and (4) record your car's odometer reading at both the beginning and end of the tax year. Keep receipts for all car operating expenses – gas, oil, repairs, insurance, etc. – and of any reimbursement you received for your expenses.

OUT-OF-TOWN TRAVEL:

Expenses accrued when traveling away from “home” overnight on job-related and continuing education trips are deductible. Your “home” is generally considered to be the entire city or general area where your principal place of employment is located. Out-of-town expenses include transportation, meals, lodging, tips and miscellaneous items like laundry, valet, etc.

Document away-from-home expenses by noting the date, destination and business purpose of your trip. Record business miles if you drove to the out-of-town location. In addition, keep a detailed record of your expenses – lodging, public transportation, meals, etc. Always list meals and lodging separately in your records. Receipts must be retained for each lodging expense. However, if any other business expense is less than \$75, a receipt is not necessary if you record all of the information in a timely diary. You must keep track of the full amount of meal and entertainment expenses even though only a portion of the amount may be deductible.

CLASSROOM SUPPLIES:

Generally to be deductible, items must be ordinary and necessary to your profession as an educator and not reimbursable by your employer. Record separately from other supplies items costing more than \$100 and having a useful life of more than one year. These items must be recovered differently on your tax return than other recurring, everyday business expenses like photocopies or books.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES:

Expenses of looking for new employment in the same line of work in which you are already working are deductible – you do not have to actually obtain a new job in order to deduct the expenses. Out-of-town, job-seeking expenses are deductible only if the primary purpose of the trip is job seeking, not pursuing personal activities.



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The information provided in this brochure is an abbreviated summary of the rules for the job-related expenses applicable to educators. For additional details as to specific business expenses, the records required and the various governmental regulations, consult the firm providing this brochure.

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Introduction

In order to deduct expenses in your trade or business, you must show that the expenses are "ordinary and necessary." An ordinary expense is one that is customary in your particular line of work. A necessary expense is one that is appropriate but not necessarily essential in your business. The application of these terms to you relies heavily on the "facts and circumstances" of your unique situation.

PROFESSIONAL Fees & Dues:

<i>Alumni Dues</i>
<i>Association Dues</i>
<i>Credentials</i>
<i>License</i>
<i>Parent Teacher Groups</i>
<i>School Dues</i>
<i>Union Dues</i>
<i>Other:</i> _____
<i>Other:</i> _____

CONTINUING Education:

<i>Correspondence Course Fees</i>
<i>Course Registration</i>
<i>Lab Fees</i>
<i>Materials & Supplies</i>
<i>Photocopy Expenses</i>
<i>Reference Materials</i>
<i>Research Expenses</i>
<i>Seminar Fees</i>
<i>Textbooks</i>
<i>Transcripts</i>
<i>Tuition</i>
<i>Other:</i> _____
<i>Other:</i> _____

COMMUNICATION Expenses:

<i>Fax Transmissions</i>
<i>Pager</i>
<i>Toll Calls</i>
<i>Cellular Toll Calls</i>
<i>Internet Access</i>
<i>Other:</i> _____

AUTO Travel:

<i>Away from Home Overnight (mi)</i>
<i>Between Jobs or Job Locations (mi)</i>
<i>Continuing Education (mi)</i>
<i>Field Trips (mi)</i>
<i>Library (mi)</i>
<i>Meetings (mi)</i>
<i>Purchasing Job Supplies & Materials (mi)</i>
<i>Professional Society Meetings (mi)</i>
<i>School Functions (mi)</i>
<i>Seminars (mi)</i>
<i>Parking Fees (\$)</i>
<i>Tolls (\$)</i>
<i>Other:</i> _____
<i>Other:</i> _____

OUT-OF-TOWN Travel:

<i>Airfare</i>
<i>Bridge & Highway Tolls</i>
<i>Bus & Subway</i>
<i>Car Rental</i>
<i>Laundry</i>
<i>Lodging (do not combine with meals)</i>
<i>Meals (do not combine with lodging)</i>
<i>Porter, Bell Captain</i>
<i>Parking</i>
<i>Taxi</i>
<i>Telephone Calls (including home)</i>
<i>Train</i>
<i>Other:</i> _____
<i>Other:</i> _____
<i>Other:</i> _____

CLASSROOM Supplies:

<i>Arts & Crafts Materials</i>
<i>Audio Visual Rentals</i>
<i>Audio Visual Supplies</i>
<i>Books</i>
<i>Classroom Decorations</i>
<i>Computer Software</i>
<i>Film & Processing</i>
<i>Grading Expenses</i>
<i>Magazines</i>
<i>Music</i>
<i>Newspapers</i>
<i>Paper</i>
<i>Party Supplies</i>
<i>Photocopy Expenses</i>
<i>Printing</i>
<i>Records, Tapes, Etc.</i>
<i>Stationery</i>
<i>Student Prizes & Awards</i>
<i>Trophies</i>
<i>Visual Aids</i>
<i>Video Tapes</i>
<i>Other:</i> _____
<i>Other:</i> _____

MISCELLANEOUS Expenses:

<i>Liability Insurance - Business</i>
<i>Periodicals</i>
<i>Professional Subscriptions</i>
<i>Resumé - Job Seeking</i>
<i>Other:</i> _____
<i>Other:</i> _____
<i>Other:</i> _____