



# Can I Deduct My Donation to IBE?

If an S corporation donates to a School Tuition Organization (STO), like IBE, the S corporation's individual owners may share a credit against their Arizona income taxes in proportion to their ownership of the S corporation. For example, if an S corporation with two equal owners donates \$20,000 to IBE, a \$10,000 Arizona tax credit may be available for each owner.

In some cases, S corporations may also take a federal income tax business deduction for donations to STOs—creating a double benefit to donating to an STO like IBE.

## **An S corporation may deduct donations to IBE if it meets two tests:**

- The donation is directly related to the S corporation's trade or business, and
- The donation is made with a reasonable expectation of financial return commensurate with the donation

Whether an S corporation meets these tests depends on the company's own facts and circumstances.

For example, the U.S. Tax Court held that a travel agent who received about 57% of her business from charities could deduct cash donations to those charities.

In another case, the IRS concluded that a corporation in the tourism industry could deduct donations to a city fund meant to improve and promote the city after an oil-spill.

In a third case, the IRS concluded a racetrack could not deduct the gross wagers donated to its foundation from its "charity day." The IRS believed the racetrack had no expectation of a financial return from the donation because, among other things, the foundation did not lease the track and the foundation did not advertise the event.

## **If you are interested in deducting your donations to IBE, you might consider a few steps:**

- Adopt a plan that explains "why" improving education is important to your business.
- Document what return you expect from the amount you contribute to IBE.
- Promote your donation through marketing campaigns.
- Create a system to track your economic returns, such as customer surveys.

It is preferable that you take these kinds of steps before making your donation to IBE. Keep good records that explain why you made the donation and how it relates to your business.

IBE does not give tax advice, so check with your tax adviser to review your situation.

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