

January 4, 2016

Dear Parent:

The Oregon Tax Code provides an additional tax exemption for parents of eligible children with disabilities in Oregon. The procedure for claiming an exemption for the 2015 tax year is explained in the Oregon Individual Income Tax Return and Instruction booklets.

A child qualifies if he or she meets **all** of the following criteria:

- Qualifies as your dependent for tax year 2015;
- Is eligible for early intervention services, early childhood special education services or receives special education as defined by the State Board of Education of the state where the child attends school; and
- Is considered to have a disability as of December 31, 2015 under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and related Oregon laws.

Eligible disability categories include: Autism Spectrum Disorder (82); Communication Disorder (50); Hearing Impairment (20); Serious Emotional Disturbance (60); Deafblindness (43); Vision Impairment (40); Other Health Impairment (80); Traumatic Brain Injury (74); Orthopedic Impairment (70); Intellectual Disability (10); and Specific Learning Disability (90).

What documentation must be submitted with your tax return to qualify for this exemption?

The tax instruction booklet explains that your child must have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) and an eligibility statement for one of the qualifying disabilities listed above. A copy of the IEP or IFSP coversheet and a copy of the student's eligibility statement may be obtained from the school district. The coversheet and copy of the eligibility statement should be kept with the child's permanent health and education records, as maintained by the family – they DO NOT need to be submitted with your tax return. Parents are advised to store an additional copy with their 2015 tax records.

To claim the exemption on your 2015 state taxes, write the child's name along with the names of all other dependents on the line titled "All dependents". In addition, write the name of the eligible child on the line provided for "Disabled children only".

Oregon Department of Revenue Online Instructions and Forms

For further information and assistance in completing Oregon tax forms, consult a tax professional or contact the Oregon Department of Revenue (DOR) at 1-800-356-4222. Oregon income tax forms and publications are available at the DOR website at: www.oregon.gov/DOR and http://www.oregon.gov/DOR/forms/FormsPubs/publication-17-5_101-431_2014.pdf

Sincerely,

Mary Apple, Special Education Director