



PEI

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS OF IOWA

March 3, 2011

For over eight years PEI has been promoting a bill that gives teachers across Iowa the ability to take a **TAX CREDIT** on any classroom materials they have purchased with their own funds. Former Representative Jodi Tymeson repeatedly wrote the bill for us, but it never made it out of committee. This year it is alive! The bill, [House File 437](#), made it out of the Ways and Means Committee Wednesday afternoon and it is now time for you to weigh in on it.

For clarification, this is different from a TAX DEDUCTION which is a percentage of the amount removed from your total taxable income. A TAX CREDIT comes directly from your final tax liability. It is a 100% credit against what you owe the state and can be applied for up to \$450 of materials purchased for your students. If, for instance, you owed a final tax liability of \$1,000 and you had spent \$450 or more purchasing materials to be used with your students in your classroom, you will reduce your final tax liability by \$450 to a final obligation of \$550. **This is HUGE. You will not be able to collect more than you paid in, but it can very well increase your refund by as much as \$450.**

WHO? This credit is available for ALL private and public teachers from preschool to community college level.

WHY? Why do this for our educators? How is this good for our students and why is this good for you? Since Iowa is looking at a 0 - 2% allowable growth:

1. Even if we gained 2% allowable growth, that money gets filtered out in so many directions that translation to teacher salaries will be minimal. With changes in collective bargaining moving forward, the time is well overdue to reimburse the professionals who have been personally investing in the tax-payers' students.
2. THERE IS NO BETTER WAY of supplying students' needs than for the teachers who are on the front line to determine what will best enrich or what is most essential for optimum student achievement. Currently, if a tax dollar is on the way to a student, some believe only 20 cents of that dollar actually makes it to the student.
3. This is a huge boost to a teacher's net income. You see, even if you make a huge salary, by the time various taxes and other extractions are taken from your gross income, the take-home pay is diminished greatly. In real dollars, a \$450 savings is approximately \$700 you would need to have earned in gross pay.
4. This is good for our students. This is a tremendous encouragement for individual teachers to go ahead and purchase the items needed for the class's optimum achievement.

THE DETAILS ARE EXCELLENT. This bill is so exceptional because it is short and to the point. Much like the great original documents of our nation, it is not wordy, but direct, and makes

perfect sense. Read it for yourself. The bill is [HF437](#) .

Start immediately promoting passage of this bill. Write letters to your local newspapers touting the great common sense of dollars going directly for our students and by-passing the bureaucratic filters and siphons. Write, email, or telephone your [senators and representatives](#) and encourage them to help the bill move for passage. This is not a partisan issue; this is an Iowa achievement and growth issue.

Contact our [office](#) with any questions. This bill was envisioned in the PEI office with Representative Kevin Koester taking the lead to bring it to a reality. We encourage other organizations to promote action amongst their memberships as well.

Jim Hawkins, State Director

HEARING NOTICE

On Monday, March 7th the Iowa House of Representatives will be hosting a public meeting on [HSB 117](#), which is the bill that removes insurance from the scope of collective bargaining and adds free agents. The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. and end at 8:15 p.m. if you are interested in attending we recommend that you come early. The galleries will fill quickly. Public hearings are an excellent opportunity to let the legislators know how you feel about this bill. If you are interested in speaking contact the clerk's office at [515-281-5383](#). Please let our office know if you can be in attendance and we will try and meet you there.

AT the last hearing, there were on display a number of seedy antics and attitudes. We want to show everyone in attendance how professional we are and I hope that many of you will be there to help us do so.

Thank you,
Greg Baker
PEI Representative

SCHOLARSHIP REMINDER

You have until April 1, 2011 to apply.

Download the brochure at: [2011 Scholarship Brochure](#)

Download the cover sheet at: [2011 Scholarship Cover Sheet](#)

You can share these with your entire district and we encourage it.

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