FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Innovative Educational Program Tax Credit Offers New Way to Support Montana Public Schools

Montana taxpayers now have an opportunity to directly support innovative educational programs in public school districts while receiving a dollar-for-dollar state tax credit through the Innovative Educational Program (IEP) Tax Credit.

The IEP Tax Credit is available to both individual and business taxpayers who make qualifying donations to Montana public school districts. These donations provide supplemental funding for innovative educational programs that enhance learning opportunities for students across the state.

To qualify, donations must be made directly to a Montana public school district and must be preapproved by the Montana Department of Revenue before the credit can be claimed. The preapproval process begins when the public school district reports the donation through the Education Donation Portal to reserve the credit on behalf of the donor. The portal for the 2026 donations opens at 10:00 AM on January 21. For 2026, the total aggregate amount of available IEP tax credits is $7,200,000 statewide. All pledges and funds must be received in the Glendive Public School's business office no later than 5:00 PM on January 19.

If sufficient tax credits remain available and the donation does not exceed $200,000 for the tax year, the credit will be preapproved. The school district will then provide the donor with a tax credit receipt showing the approved credit amount along with a confirmation number. Both documents must be included when filing a Montana tax return.

The tax credit is equal to the full amount of the donation, up to $200,000 per year. Credits are issued on a first-come, first-served basis until the annual statewide limit is reached. Last year, the Glendive Elementary School District received $35,000 in Innovative Education Tax Credit donations, and Dawson County High School received $8,000 from local donors. These funds were used by each of the buildings in our district to support students in a variety of meaningful ways including advanced learning opportunities, new programs, and expanded learning environments to help students reach their academic and personal goals. For more information on what last year's funds were used for please look on our website at https://www.glendiveschools.com/.

Taxpayers interested in learning more about the program can find additional details in the **Tax Credits for Qualified Education Contributions Guide** available through the Montana Department of Revenue or by contacting the Glendive Public Schools business office at 406-377-5369 or businessoffice@glendiveschools.org.