



# Instructions for Form IT-272

## Claim for College Tuition Credit or Itemized Deduction

### Full-year New York State residents only



This form may be e-filed as an attachment to an e-filed return; you cannot e-file this form by itself.



Do not complete Form IT-272 if you are claimed as a dependent on another's New York State tax return or if you file Form IT-203, *New York State Nonresident and Part-Year Resident Income Tax Return*. You **do not qualify** for the college tuition credit.

## General information

### What is the college tuition credit or itemized deduction?

The **college tuition credit** is a tax credit allowed for the qualified college tuition expenses paid for an eligible student. The credit is available to full-year New York State residents only. If the credit exceeds your tax for the tax year, the excess credit will be refunded, without interest. For tax year 2006, the credit is limited to \$400 per eligible student.

The **college tuition itemized deduction** may offer you a greater tax savings if you itemized your deductions on your federal return. For tax year 2006, the maximum deduction is \$10,000 for each eligible student. Use the worksheets in these instructions to compute your college tuition itemized deduction and to determine which option (credit or deduction) is better for you.

You can claim the New York credit or deduction even if you claim a federal credit or deduction for qualified college tuition expenses. There is no limit on the number of eligible students for whom you may claim a credit or deduction. **You may claim either the credit or the deduction, but not both.**

### Do I qualify for the college tuition credit or itemized deduction?

To qualify for the college tuition credit or itemized deduction, you, your spouse, or your dependent(s) must be an **undergraduate** student enrolled at or attending an institution of higher education and have paid qualified college tuition expenses in 2006. **Only expenses for undergraduate enrollment or attendance qualify.**

If you are a New York State nonresident or part-year resident, you do not qualify for the college tuition credit. However, you may be eligible to claim the New York college tuition itemized deduction if you itemized your deductions on your federal return. **Do not complete** Form IT-272. See the instructions for Form IT-203-B, *Nonresident and Part-Year Resident Income Allocation and College Tuition Itemized Deduction Worksheet*.

If a student is claimed as a dependent on another person's New York State tax return, only the person who claims the student as a dependent may claim the credit or itemized deduction. If a student is not claimed as a dependent on another person's New York State tax return, the student may claim the credit or deduction.

**Spouses filing separately** — If you and your spouse are filing separate returns, you must each file a separate Form IT-272 to claim your credit or deduction. One spouse may claim the credit, and the other spouse may claim the itemized deduction. However, you must each claim your separately computed credit (or deduction) based only on the amount of qualified college tuition expenses you paid (or that were treated as if paid by you) for yourself, your spouse, or a person who you claim as a dependent on your separate return. You cannot claim expenses for a dependent claimed by your spouse.

For more information on the college tuition credit or itemized deduction, see Publication 10-W, *FAQs: New York State College Tuition Credit and Itemized Deduction*.

### How do I claim the college tuition credit or itemized deduction?

If you paid qualified college tuition expenses in tax year 2006, complete all sections of Form IT-272 that apply to you. For the credit, transfer the amount from line 5 or line 7 to the appropriate line on Form IT-150 or Form IT-201. For the itemized deduction, see Part 4 on Form IT-272. **Attach your completed Form IT-272 to your return.**

### Important reminder to file a complete return

You must complete all required schedules and forms that make up your return, and include all pages of those forms and schedules when you file. Attach **only** those forms and schedules that apply to your return, and be sure that you have made all required entries. Returns that are missing required pages or that have pages with missing entries are considered incomplete and cannot be processed, and may subject taxpayers to penalty and interest.

### Filing in your tax forms

For complete information on how to fill in New York State scannable income tax forms, see the instructions for resident returns (Forms IT-150 and IT-201).

Also see the instructions for the above returns for the *Privacy notification* or if you need help contacting the Tax Department.

## Specific instructions

All filers complete lines 1 and 2.

### Part 1

**Column A** — *Eligible student* includes the taxpayer, the taxpayer's spouse, and the taxpayer's dependent(s) (for whom an exemption for New York State income tax purposes is allowed). **List each eligible student only once in Part 1.**

If you are claiming more than three eligible students, complete Part 1 as instructed, and attach a statement in the same format with the required identifying information for the additional eligible students. Write your name and social security number on the attachment.

**Column C** — Enter the name(s) of the college or university (institution of higher education) to which qualified college tuition expenses were paid.

An *institution of higher education* includes any institution of higher education or business, trade, technical, or other occupational school located in or outside of New York State.

The institution must be recognized and approved by either the regents of the University of New York or a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association accepted by the regents. In addition, the institution or school must provide a course of study leading to the granting of a post-secondary degree, certificate, or diploma.

**Column D** — *Qualified college tuition expenses* include tuition required for the enrollment or attendance of the eligible student at an institution of higher education. The expenses may be paid by cash, check, credit card, or with borrowed funds. The eligible student does not need to be enrolled in a degree program or to attend full time for the expenses to qualify. However, **only expenses for undergraduate enrollment or attendance qualify**. Expenses for enrollment or attendance in a course of study leading to the granting of a postbaccalaureate or other graduate degree **do not qualify**.

Payments on behalf of an eligible student from a qualified state tuition program (such as New York's 529 College Savings Program) are considered qualified college tuition expenses for purposes of Form IT-272. If you claim the student as a dependent, these payments are treated as paid by you.

Generally, qualified college tuition expenses paid on behalf of an eligible student by someone other than the student (such as a relative) are treated as paid by the student. However, if the eligible student is claimed as a dependent on another person's New York State income tax return, only the person who claims the student as a dependent for income tax purposes may claim the credit or deduction for college tuition expenses that were paid (or treated as paid) by the student. This is the case even if the expenses were paid from the student's earnings, gifts, inheritances, or savings.

The following are **not qualified** college tuition expenses:

- Tuition paid through the receipt of scholarships or financial aid (For this purpose, financial aid does not include student loans, other loans, and grants that must be repaid either before or after the student ceases attending school.)
- Amounts paid for room and board, insurance, medical expenses (including student health fees), transportation, or other similar personal, living, or family expenses
- Fees for course-related books, supplies, equipment, and nonacademic activities, even if the fees are required to be paid as a condition of enrollment or attendance

If you paid qualified tuition expenses in 2006 for an academic period that begins in 2007 or after, those expenses are considered eligible expenses for the 2006 college tuition credit or deduction.

Reduce the total of your qualified college tuition expenses by any scholarships or financial aid received or by any refunds of qualified expenses. If you have not received a refund, scholarship, or other form of financial aid before you file your tax return, reduce your qualified expenses by the amount that will be received if you can determine this amount. If the refund, scholarship, or financial aid is received after you have filed your return, you must file Form IT-201-X, *Amended Resident Income Tax Return*, and Form IT-272 (marked **Amended**). Compute the amount by which your credit or deduction would have been reduced if the refund, scholarship, or financial aid had been received in the year for which you claimed the credit or deduction.

If you paid qualified college tuition expenses to more than one institution of higher learning for the same eligible student, enter the total qualified expenses paid to all institutions during 2006 for that student on one line.

**Column E** — Enter for each student listed in column A the lesser of \$10,000 or the amount of qualified college tuition expenses shown in column D.

**Part 4 — College tuition itemized deduction election**

If you itemized deductions on your federal return, you may receive a greater tax benefit from the college tuition itemized deduction. To compute your college tuition itemized deduction, complete Worksheet 1 below.

Use the following steps to determine if the college tuition itemized deduction or the college tuition credit offers the greater tax savings:

- **First** complete any of the following that apply to you:
  - Form IT-213, *Claim for Empire State Child Credit*
  - Form IT-214, *Claim for Real Property Tax Credit*
  - Form IT-215, *Claim for Earned Income Credit*, or Form IT-209, *Claim for Noncustodial Parent New York State Earned Income Credit*
  - Form IT-216, *Claim for Child and Dependent Care Credit*
- **Then**, complete Worksheet 2 on page 3.  
 However, **do not use** Worksheet 2 if you must file any of the following forms:
  - Form IT-201-ATT, *Other Tax Credits and Taxes*
  - Form IT-360.1, *Change of City Resident Status*
  - Form IT-112-R, *New York State Resident Credit*
  - Form IT-112-C, *New York State Resident Credit for Taxes Paid to a Province of Canada*

**Instead**, you should **first** compute your tax liability claiming the college tuition credit on a separate sheet of paper. **Then**, compute your tax liability claiming the college tuition itemized deduction. Claim the option that results in the greater tax savings.

You may claim either the credit **or** the deduction, **but not both**.

**Important:** You **must attach** Form IT-272 to your 2006 Form IT-150 to claim the college tuition credit or Form IT-201 to claim the college tuition credit or the college tuition itemized deduction.

**Worksheet 1**

1 Enter amount from Form IT-272, line 3.....	1.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the amount on Form IT-201, line 33, is \$100,000 or less, skip lines 2 through 4 and enter the amount from line 1 on line 5 of this worksheet.</li> <li>• If the amount on Form IT-201, line 33, is more than \$100,000, continue with line 2 below.</li> </ul>		
2 Enter amount, if any, from Form IT-201, <i>New York State itemized deduction worksheet</i> , line n .....	2.	
(If the amount on line 2 is zero, skip lines 3 and 4, and enter the amount from line 1 on line 5 of this worksheet.)		
3 Enter amount from Form IT-201, <i>New York State itemized deduction worksheet</i> , line l.....	3.	
4 Divide line 2 by line 3, and round to the fourth decimal place .....	4.	
5 Multiply line 1 by the amount on line 4. This is your <b>college tuition itemized deduction</b> .....	5.	
6 Enter amount from Form IT-201, <i>New York State itemized deduction worksheet</i> , line n.....	6.	
7 Add lines 5 and 6.....	7.	
8 Enter your New York standard deduction from Form IT-201, <i>New York State standard deduction table</i> .....	8.	
<p>If line 7 is less than line 8, <b>stop</b>. You should claim the standard deduction and the college tuition credit on your Form IT-201 since it offers the greater tax savings. If line 7 is more than line 8, continue with Worksheet 2 on page 3.</p>		

Worksheet 2

1	Enter your New York adjusted gross income from Form IT-201, line 33.....	1.	_____
2	Enter the amount from Worksheet 1, line 7 .....	2.	_____
3	NYS dependent exemption(s) amount from Form IT-201, line 36.....	3.	_____
4	Add lines 2 and 3.....	4.	_____
5	Subtract line 4 from line 1 .....	5.	_____
6	New York State tax on line 5 amount. (See the instructions for Form IT-201, page 95 to compute your tax. Use the line 5 amount instead of the amount on Form IT-201, line 38, to determine which tax computation method to use and to compute your tax.).....	6.	_____
7	Enter your NY State household credit from Form IT-201, line 40 (see the instructions for Form IT-201, page 95) .....	7.	_____
8	Subtract line 7 from line 6.....	8.	_____
9	Enter amount from Form IT-216, line 14 .....	9.	_____
10	Enter amount from Form IT-215, line 16 or 17, or Form IT-209, line 42 or 43.....	10.	_____
11	Enter amount from Form IT-214, line 33.....	11.	_____
12	Enter the amount from Form IT-213, line 16 or 17 .....	12.	_____
13	Add lines 9, 10, 11, and 12.....	13.	_____
14	Subtract line 13 from line 8.....	14.	_____
15	New York City resident tax on line 5 amount. (See the instructions for Form IT-201, page 96 to compute your tax. Use the line 5 amount instead of the amount on Form IT-201, line 38, to determine which tax computation method to use and to compute your tax.).....	15.	_____
16	Enter your New York City household credit from Form IT-201, line 48 (see the instructions for Form IT-201, page 97).....	16.	_____
17	Subtract line 16 from line 15.....	17.	_____
18	Yonkers residents, multiply line 14 by 10% (.10); Yonkers nonresidents, enter amount from Form Y-203, line 6....	18.	_____
19	Add lines 8, 17, and 18.....	19.	<input type="text"/>
20	Enter amount from line 1 above.....	20.	_____
21	Enter amount from Worksheet 1, line 6 or Worksheet 1, line 8, whichever is greater.....	21.	_____
22	Enter amount from line 3 above.....	22.	_____
23	Add lines 21 and 22.....	23.	_____
24	Subtract line 23 from line 20.....	24.	_____
25	New York State tax on line 24 amount. (See the instructions for Form IT-201, page 95 to compute your tax. Use the line 24 amount instead of the amount on Form IT-201, line 38, to determine which tax computation method to use and to compute your tax.) .....	25.	_____
26	Enter amount from line 7 above.....	26.	_____
27	Subtract line 26 from line 25.....	27.	_____
28	Enter amount from line 13 above.....	28.	_____
29	Subtract line 28 from line 27 .....	29.	_____
30	New York City resident tax on line 24 amount. (See the instructions for Form IT-201, page 96 to compute your tax. Use the line 24 amount instead of the amount on Form IT-201, line 38, to determine which tax computation method to use and to compute your tax).....	30.	_____
31	Enter amount from line 16 above.....	31.	_____
32	Subtract line 31 from line 30.....	32.	_____
33	Yonkers residents, multiply line 29 by 10% (.10); Yonkers nonresidents, enter amount from Form Y-203, line 6 .....	33.	_____
34	Add lines 27, 32, and 33.....	34.	_____
35	Enter amount from Form IT-272, line 5 or 7, whichever applies .....	35.	_____
36	Subtract line 35 from line 34.....	36.	<input type="text"/>

- If **line 19 is less than line 36**, the college tuition **itemized deduction** offers you the greater tax savings. Enter amount from Worksheet 1, line 5 on Form IT-201, *New York State itemized deduction worksheet*, line o. Do **not** claim the college tuition **credit** on line 68 of Form IT-201. You must attach your completed **Form IT-272** to Form IT-201. We **cannot allow** your college tuition itemized deduction if you fail to attach Form IT-272 to Form IT-201.
- If **line 19 is more than line 36**, the college tuition **credit** offers you the greater tax savings. **Do not enter** an amount on Form IT-201, *New York State itemized deduction worksheet*, line o. Enter the college tuition **credit** from Form IT-272, line 5 or 7, whichever applies, on Form IT-201, line 68. However, you should complete Form IT-201, *New York State itemized deduction worksheet*, to determine if your New York itemized deduction, not including the college tuition itemized deduction, is greater than your allowable standard deduction.

Keep this completed Worksheet 2 with your records; **do not mail** Worksheet 2 with your return.