



GOAL, MY TAXES, AND MY CASH FLOW

How do I handle the impact to my cash flow when contributing to GOAL?

- When making your contribution to GOAL early in the calendar year, you may “recoup” the GOAL contribution in advance of filing your Georgia income tax return by reducing your Georgia income tax withholdings, or, if you pay taxes on a quarterly (estimated) basis, reducing the amount of your estimated payments to the GA Department of Revenue.
- Taxpayers may use credit cards in making payment to GOAL, thereby earning “points” or other incentives from their credit card providers and managing their payment of their credit card balances as they so desire.
- You may use any refund you obtain from your participation in the prior year as the method for funding your contribution in 2013.

Will I have a problem obtaining my Georgia income tax credit and refund this year?

- The processing of 2011 Georgia income tax returns was problematic – and NOT because of the GOAL tax credit. The Georgia Department of Revenue was in its first year using a new, automated income tax system for individuals, known as Individual Integrated Tax System. This system was first released in November, 2011, and per Madeline Mangan (Director, DOR Taxpayer Services Division), there were numerous glitches in the software that required IT fixes to their system throughout 2012.
- One of the DOR system fixes was related to the automated validation to ensure that a taxpayer who took the QEE (GOAL) tax credit was in fact granted such a credit by the DOR. That initial validation did not work properly in the DOR software.
- Some 2011 GOAL contributors received DOR correspondence improperly indicating that they could not claim the 2011 QEE tax credit. **For every instance of which we were aware, we assisted immediately and continually until the DOR mistake was resolved and the taxpayer received their GOAL tax credit.**
- We received conscientious updates and cooperation from Department of Revenue Officials, Madeline Mangan – Director Taxpayer Services, and Doug MacGinnitie – Commissioner.
Per Ms. Mangan on 5/29/12:
We apologize for the confusion this year. We are seeing continuous growth and interest in the Qualified Education Expense Credit for the State of Georgia and are working toward meeting the demands of this credit. **This process will be completely automated next year and should run smoothly and efficiently. We appreciate your patience and welcome your feedback as we continue to work toward this goal.**