

2003



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Instructions for Forms 1098-E and 1098-T

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise noted.

What's New for 2003

Form 1098-T. Final Regulations section 1.6050S-1 issued in December 2002 describes the reporting rules for completing Form 1098-T for 2003. The reporting under the prior optional instructions and the final regulations is the same except as noted below.

Changes to the reporting rules include:

- No reporting is required for courses for which no academic credit is offered by the institution. This is true even if the student is enrolled in a degree program.
- No reporting is required for formal billing arrangements between an institution and a governmental entity, as well as arrangements between an institution and an employer.
- An insurer must file Form 1098-T for each individual to whom reimbursements or refunds of qualified tuition and related expenses were made in 2003.
- An institution or insurer, in addition to its name, address, and phone number, may also include information on a third party service provider. See **Information contact and service provider** on page ET-2.

Magnetic media/electronic reporting. For Forms 1098-E and 1098-T filed after December 31, 2003, you are required to file magnetically or electronically if filing 250 or more returns. See **Magnetic Media/Electronic Reporting** in the **2003 General Instructions for Forms 1099, 1098, 5498, and W-2G** for more information.

Penalties. For Forms 1098-E and 1098-T filed after December 31, 2003, penalties may be imposed for failure to file or failure to furnish correct forms. However, under certain circumstances, the penalties may be waived. See the 2003 General Instructions for Forms 1099, 1098, 5498, and W-2G for more information.

Items To Note

General instructions. In addition to these specific instructions, you should also use the **2003 General Instructions for Forms 1099, 1098, 5498, and W-2G**. Those general instructions include information about:

- Magnetic media and electronic reporting requirements
- Penalties
- Who must file (nominee/middleman)
- When and where to file
- Taxpayer identification numbers
- Statements to recipients
- Corrected and void returns
- Other general topics

You can get the general instructions from the IRS Web Site at www.irs.gov or by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

Form W-9S. You may use **Form W-9S**, Request for Student's or Borrower's Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification, to obtain the student's or borrower's name, address, social security number, and student loan certification to be used when filing Form 1098-E or 1098-T. Use of Form W-9S is optional; you may collect the information using your own forms, such as financial aid applications, and procedures. You may collect the student's or borrower's information on paper or electronically.

Electronic submission of Form W-9S. An educational institution, insurer, or lender may establish a system for students and borrowers to submit Form W-9S electronically, including by fax. Generally, the electronic system must:

1. Ensure the information received is the information sent and document all occasions of user access that result in the submission.
2. Make reasonably certain the person accessing the system and submitting the form is the person identified on Form W-9S.
3. Provide you with the same information as the paper Form W-9S.
4. Be able to supply a hard copy of the electronic Form W-9S if the IRS requests it.

Also, if an electronic Form W-9S is used to obtain the borrower's certification that all the loan proceeds are solely used to pay qualified higher education expenses, your electronic system must require, as the final entry in the submission, an electronic signature by the borrower whose name is on Form W-9S. The signature authenticates and verifies the submission. See Announcement 98-27, 1998-1 C.B. 865.

Specific Instructions for Form 1098-E

File Form 1098-E. Student Loan Interest Statement, if you receive student loan interest of \$600 or more from an individual during the year in the course of your trade or business.

The \$600 threshold applies to each borrower regardless of the number of student loans obtained by that borrower. However, you may file a separate Form 1098-E for each student loan of the borrower, or you may file one Form 1098-E for the interest from all student loans of the borrower.

Who must file. File Form 1098-E if you are a financial institution, governmental unit (or any of its subsidiary agencies), educational institution, or any other person who receives student loan interest of \$600 or more from an individual during the year in the course of your trade or business.

If more than one person has a connection with the loan, only the first person to receive the interest payment must file Form 1098-E. For example, a loan service or collection agent receiving payments on behalf of the lender must file.

Qualified student loan. To be reportable for 2003, a student loan must be either:

- Subsidized, guaranteed, financed, or otherwise treated as a student loan under a program of the Federal, state, or local government, or of a post-secondary educational institution or
- Certified by the borrower as a student loan incurred solely to pay qualified higher education expenses. You may use Form W-9S to obtain the certification.

Revolving accounts. Report interest paid on revolving accounts, such as credit card accounts, only if the borrower certifies that all the loan proceeds are **solely** used to pay qualified higher education expenses. You do not have to verify the borrower's actual use of the funds. **Do not** report interest on mixed use loans.

Loans under qualified plans. **Do not** report interest on loans made under a qualified employer plan, as defined in section

72(p)(4), or under a contract purchased under a qualified employer plan within the meaning of section 72(p)(5).

Additional information. For more information about reporting student loan interest, see Regulations section 1.6050S-3.

Statements to borrowers. If you are required to file Form 1098-E, you must provide a statement or acceptable substitute, on paper or electronically, to the borrower. For more information about the requirements to furnish a statement to the borrower, see part **H** in the **2003 General Instructions for Forms 1099, 1098, 5498, and W-2G**.

Recipient's/lender's name, address, and telephone number box. Enter the name, address, and telephone number of the filer of Form 1098-E. Use this same name and address on **Form 1096**, Annual Summary and Transmittal of U.S. Information Returns.

Box 1. Student Loan Interest Received by Lender

Enter the interest you received on a student loan(s) during the calendar year. For loans made before January 1, 2004, you are not required to, but you may, include loan origination fees and/or capitalized interest in box 1 as described in Proposed Regulations section 1.221-1(h)(2).

Box 2. Checkbox

Check this box if loan origination fees and/or capitalized interest are reported in box 1.

Specific Instructions for Form 1098-T

File **Form 1098-T**, Tuition Statement, if you are an eligible educational institution. You must file for each student you enroll and for whom a reportable transaction is made. Also, if you are an insurer, file Form 1098-T for each individual for whom you made reimbursements or refunds of qualified tuition and related expenses.

Exceptions. You do not have to file Form 1098-T or furnish a statement for:

- Courses for which no academic credit is offered, even if the student is otherwise enrolled in a degree program;
- Nonresident alien students, unless requested by the student;
- Students whose qualified tuition and related expenses are entirely waived or paid entirely with scholarships; and
- Students whose qualified tuition and related expenses are covered by a formal billing arrangement between an institution and the student's employer or a governmental entity, such as the Department of Veterans' Affairs or the Department of Defense.

Who must file. You must file Form 1098-T if you are an eligible educational institution. An **eligible educational institution** that is a governmental unit, or an agency or instrumentality of a governmental unit, is subject to the reporting requirements of Form 1098-T. A designated officer or employee of the governmental entity must satisfy the reporting requirements of Form 1098-T.

Eligible educational institutions may choose to report payments received, or amounts billed, for qualified tuition and related expenses. The institution must use the same reporting method for all calendar years unless the IRS grants permission to change the reporting method.

If another person receives or collects payments of qualified tuition and related expenses on your behalf, the other person must file Form 1098-T. However, if the other person does not possess the information necessary to comply with the reporting requirements of Form 1098-T, then you must satisfy the reporting requirements of Form 1098-T.

Also, if you are an **insurer** engaged in a trade or business of making refunds or reimbursements of qualified tuition and related expenses, you are required to file Form 1098-T (see box 7 on page ET-3).

Eligible educational institution. An eligible educational institution is a college, university, vocational school, or other post-secondary educational institution that is described in

section 481 of the Higher Education Act of 1965; and that is eligible to participate in the Department of Education's student aid programs. This includes most accredited public, nonprofit, and private post-secondary institutions.

Qualified tuition and related expenses. Qualified tuition and related expenses are tuition and fees a student must pay to be enrolled at or attend an eligible educational institution. The following are **not** qualified tuition and related expenses:

- Amounts paid for any course or other education involving sports, games, or hobbies unless the course or other education is part of the student's degree program or is taken to acquire or improve job skills.
- Charges and fees for room, board, insurance, transportation, and similar personal, living, or family expenses.

Academic credit. Academic credit is credit awarded by an eligible educational institution for the completion of course work leading to a post-secondary degree, certificate, or other recognized post-secondary educational credential.

Example. Student A, a medical doctor, takes a course at University X's medical school. Student A takes the course to fulfill State Y's licensing requirement that medical doctors attend continuing medical education courses each year. Student A is not enrolled in a degree program at University X and takes the medical course through University X's continuing professional education program. University X does not award Student A credit toward a post-secondary degree on an academic transcript for the completion of the course but gives Student A a certificate of attendance upon completion. University X is not required to file Form 1098-T for the course taken by Student A.

Academic period. You must file Form 1098-T for each student who is enrolled in your institution for any academic period (e.g., semester, trimester, or quarter) in 2003. Determine your enrollment for each period under your own rules or use one of the following dates:

- 30 days after the first day of the academic period,
- A date during the period when enrollment data must be collected for purposes of the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System administered by the Department of Education, or
- A date during the period when you must report enrollment data to the state, to your governing board, or to some other external governing body.

Additional information. For more information about reporting on Form 1098-T, see Regulations section 1.6050S-1.

Statements to students. If you are required to file Form 1098-T, you must provide a statement or acceptable substitute, on paper or electronically, to the student. For more information about the requirements to furnish a statement to each student, see part **H** in the **2003 General Instructions for Forms 1099, 1098, 5498, and W-2G**.

Student's address. In the student's address box of Form 1098-T, enter the student's permanent address. That is, enter the student's home or other long-term address where he or she can receive forwarded mail. You may use a temporary address only if you do not know the permanent address.

Information contact and service provider. You must provide your name, address, and telephone number. In addition, you may include information on a third party service provider who filed the form or who may answer questions about the statement. Enter the service provider's information in the blank box below the student's address; abbreviate the name and address as necessary to fit in the box.

Box 1. Payments Received for Qualified Tuition and Related Expenses

If you use this method of reporting, enter the amount of payments received for qualified tuition and related expenses from any source during the calendar year. The amount reported is the total amount of payments received less any reimbursements or refunds made during the calendar year that relate to the payments received for the same calendar year.

Box 2. Amounts Billed for Qualified Tuition and Related Expenses

If you use this method of reporting, enter the amounts billed during the calendar year for qualified tuition and related expenses. The amount reported is the total amount billed less any reductions in charges made during the calendar year that relate to the amounts billed for the same calendar year.

Box 3. Adjustments Made for a Prior Year

Payments received. Enter reimbursements or refunds of qualified tuition and related expenses made during the calendar year that relate to payments received that were reported for a prior year.

Amounts billed. Enter any reductions in charges made for qualified tuition and related expenses made during the calendar year that relate to amounts billed that were reported for a prior year.

Box 4. Scholarships or Grants

Enter the total amount of any scholarships or grants that you administered and processed during the calendar year for the payment of the student's costs of attendance. However, see **Exceptions** on page ET-2.

Box 5. Adjustments to Scholarships or Grants for a Prior Year

Enter the amount of any reduction to the amount of scholarships or grants that were reported for a prior year.

Box 6. Checkbox for Amounts for an Academic Period Beginning in January through March of 2004

Check the box if any payments received, or amounts billed, for qualified tuition and related expenses reported for 2003 relate

to an academic period that begins in January through March of 2004.

Box 7. Reimbursements or Refunds From an Insurance Contract

If you are an insurer, enter the total amount of reimbursements or refunds of qualified tuition and related expenses that you made for the student during 2003.

Box 8. Check if at Least Half-Time Student

Check this box if the student was at least a half-time student during any academic period that began in 2003. A half-time student is a student enrolled for at least half the full-time academic work load for the course of study the student is pursuing. Your institution's standard for a half-time student work load must equal or exceed the standards established by the Department of Education under the Higher Education Act and set forth in 34 C.F.R. section 674.2(b).

Box 9. Check if a Graduate Student

Check this box if the student was a graduate student. The student is a graduate student if the student was enrolled in a program or programs leading to a graduate-level degree, graduate-level certificate, or other recognized graduate-level educational credential.