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**IRS announces Those Affected by the Recent Tax Breaks Changes Last Week  
Will Have to Wait Until Mid to Late February to File**

The Internal Revenue Service announced December 23<sup>rd</sup> that for most the upcoming tax season will start on time, but taxpayers affected by recently reinstated deductions will need to wait to file their individual tax returns until mid- to late February. In addition to those affected by the tax breaks, those who itemize deductions on Form 1040 Schedule A will also need to wait until mid- to late February to file.

The very recent changes in the law mean that the IRS will need to reprogram its processing systems for three provisions that were extended in the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization and Job Creation Act of 2010 that became law on Dec. 17.

If you claim any of these three items — involving the state and local sales tax deduction, higher education tuition and fees deduction and educator expenses deduction as well as those taxpayers who itemize deductions on Form 1040 Schedule A — you will need to wait until mid – to late February (the IRS estimates) to file your tax returns until tax processing systems are ready.

“We will do everything we can to minimize the impact of recent tax law changes on other taxpayers. The IRS will work through the holidays and into the New Year to get our systems reprogrammed and ensure taxpayers have a smooth tax season.” said IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman.

The IRS will announce a specific date in the near future when it can start processing tax returns impacted by the late tax law changes. In the interim, people in the affected categories can start working on their tax returns, but you should not submit your returns until IRS systems are ready to process the new tax law changes.

Taxpayers will need to wait to file if they are within any of the following three categories:

- Taxpayers claiming itemized deductions on [Schedule A](#). Itemized deductions include mortgage interest, charitable deductions, medical and dental expenses as well as state and local taxes. In addition, itemized deductions include the state and local general sales tax deduction extended in the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 enacted Dec. 17, which primarily benefits people living in areas without state and local income taxes and is claimed on Schedule A, Line 5. Because of

late Congressional action to enact tax law changes, anyone who itemizes and files a Schedule A will need to wait to file until mid- to late February.

- Taxpayers claiming the Higher Education Tuition and Fees Deduction. This deduction for parents and students — covering up to \$4,000 of tuition and fees paid to a post-secondary institution — is claimed on [Form 8917](#). However, the IRS emphasized that there will be no delays for millions of parents and students who claim other education credits, including the American Opportunity Tax Credit and Lifetime Learning Credit.
- Taxpayers claiming the Educator Expense Deduction. This deduction is for kindergarten through grade 12 educators with out-of-pocket classroom expenses of up to \$250. The educator expense deduction is claimed on [Form 1040](#), Line 23, and Form 1040A, Line 16.

The delay affects both paper filers and electronic filers. The IRS emphasized that e-file is the fastest, best way for those affected by the delay to get their refunds.

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