

General Instructions

Purpose of Form

If you cashed series EE or series I U.S. savings bonds that were issued after 1989 and you paid qualified higher education expenses during the year, you may be able to exclude from income part or all the interest on those bonds.

Use Form 8818 to keep a record of the post-1989 series EE and I bonds you cash. You will need the information on this form to complete Form 8815, Exclusion of Interest From Series EE and I U.S. Savings Bonds Issued After 1989. Form 8815 is used to figure the amount of interest you can exclude from your income when you file your income tax return. The instructions for your tax return will tell you how to take the exclusion.

Use a separate Form 8818 each time you cash series EE or series I bonds issued after 1989. If you choose not to use Form 8818 but intend to exclude the interest from your income, you should keep records that include the information asked for on this form.

Bonds That Qualify for Exclusion

To qualify for the exclusion, the bonds must have been issued after 1989 in your name, or, if you are married, they may be issued in your name and your spouse's name. It does not matter who bought the bonds. Also, you must have been age 24 or older before the bonds were issued. A bond bought by a parent and issued in the name of his or her child who is under age 24 will not qualify for the exclusion by the parent or the child. Generally, the interest on the bond will be taxed at the child's rate once the child reaches age 18. Prior to reaching age 18, the interest may be taxed at the parent's or the child's rate depending on the total amount of the child's investment income (for example, interest and dividends).

Note. Interest on U.S. savings bonds is exempt from state and local income taxes.

Qualified Higher Education Expenses

Qualified higher education expenses include tuition and fees, but not room and board, required for the enrollment or attendance at a college, university, or vocational school. Qualified expenses also include contributions to a qualified tuition program or to a Coverdell education savings account. The expenses must be for you, your spouse, or your dependent.

Additional Information

For more details about the exclusion, including limits that apply to the amount you may exclude, see Pub. 550, Investment Income and Expenses, or Pub. 970, Tax Benefits for Education.

Specific Instructions

Note. Before you cash your series EE bonds, separate the bonds issued after 1989 from the bonds issued before 1990.

Line 1

For each paper series EE bond issued after 1989, enter the correct information for columns (a), (b), and (c) of line 1.

Line 4

For each series I bond and electronic series EE bond issued after 1989, enter the correct information for columns (a), (b), and (c) of line 4. Include post-1989 series EE bonds converted from paper to electronic bonds. Do not include them in Part I.

Line 8

You may be able to exclude this interest from your income. See Form 8815 for details.

Note. Keep Form 8818 for your records. Do not send it to the IRS.

Paperwork Reduction Act Notice. Use of this form is optional. It is provided to help you figure your tax liability.

You are not required to provide the information requested on a form that is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act unless the form displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a form or its instructions must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any Internal Revenue law. Generally, tax returns and return information are confidential, as required by Internal Revenue Code section 6103.

The average time and expenses required to complete and file this form will vary depending on individual circumstances. For the estimated averages, see the instructions for your income tax return.

If you have suggestions for making this form simpler, we would be happy to hear from you. See the instructions for your income tax return.