

EXPLANATION OF AMOUNTS REPORTED ON THE 2009 W-2 FORM

The following information is provided to assist you in understanding the amounts reported on your 2009 W-2. For additional information, please visit our website at <http://www.newschool.edu/admin/treasurer/payroll>.

2009 PAYROLL TAX AND WAGE INFORMATION

BOXES 1 & 2 - FEDERAL WAGES AND TAX WITHHELD

Federal Wages includes your salary and other taxable compensation **paid** from January 1 through December 31, plus imputed income for taxable fringe benefits such as Group Term Life Insurance over \$50,000 and Tuition Waiver, minus reductions for pre-tax Medical/Dental Insurance Plan contributions and contributions to Health and Dependant Care Flexible Spending Accounts and Retirement Plans.

Box 1: Wages, tips, and other compensation. Reports your total taxable wages for federal income tax purposes.

Box 2: Federal income tax withheld. Reports the amount withheld from your paychecks for federal income taxes. This represents the amount of federal taxes you have paid-in through payroll deductions throughout the year.

BOXES 3 & 4 - SOCIAL SECURITY WAGES AND TAX WITHHELD

BOXES 5 & 6 - MEDICARE WAGES AND TAX WITHHELD

Social Security wages are split into two parts (Social Security-OASDI and Medicare) and include gross wages plus imputed income, minus salary reduction for pre-tax Medical/Dental Insurance Plan contributions and Flexible Spending Accounts. Unlike the federal taxable wages, these wages are not reduced by retirement plan contributions. Social Security wages annual maximum for 2009 was **\$106,800**. There is no maximum dollar limit for Medicare wages. Employees who worked for more than one employer in 2009 will have Social Security and Medicare taxes withheld by each employer. If the total Social Security amount withheld from all employers exceeds the maximum for 2009, then the employee is allowed to claim a refund of the excess tax when filing his/her Federal Income Tax Return for 2009.

Box 3: Social Security wages. Reports your taxable wages for Social Security tax purposes. For 2009, the Social Security tax is assessed on wages of **\$106,800** or less. Wages above **\$106,800** are not subject to the Social Security tax.

Box 4: Social Security tax withheld. Reports the amount of Social Security taxes withheld from your paychecks. The Social Security tax is a flat tax rate of 6.2% on wages up \$106,800.

Box 5: Medicare wages. Reports your taxable wages for Medicare tax purposes. There is no maximum wage base for Medicare taxes. The amount shown in Box 5 may be larger than the amount in Box 1.

Box 6: Medicare tax withheld. Reports the amount of taxes withheld from your paycheck for the Medicare tax. The Medicare tax is a flat tax rate of 1.45% of your total Medicare wages.

BOXES 16 & 17 - STATE WAGES AND INCOME TAX WITHHELD

New York taxable wages are calculated with the same criteria as federal with gross earning plus imputed income, reduced by salary reductions for pre-tax Medical/Dental Insurance Plan contributions and contributions to Flexible Spending Accounts and Retirement Plans.

Box 16: State wages. Reports the amount of taxable wages earned for state tax purposes.

Box 17: State income tax withheld. Reports the amount of state income taxes withheld from your paychecks based on the wages reported in Box 16.

BOXES 18 & 19 - LOCAL WAGES AND INCOME TAX WITHHELD

New York City and Yonkers taxable wages are calculated with the same criteria as New York State Wages for employees that live in those cities.

Box 18: Local wages. Reports the amount of wages subject to local income taxes.

Box 19: Local income tax withheld. Reports the amount of taxes withheld from your paychecks for local income taxes.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

BOX 10 - DEPENDENT CARE BENEFITS—

This box consists of the total amount of salary reductions for the Dependent Care Spending Account. This amount may not exceed \$5,000 in calendar year 2009.

BOX 12 – OTHER—

These boxes are used to identify specific items. They are labeled as follows:

Box 12C: Group Term Life Imputed Income. The value of Group Term Life Insurance coverage in excess of \$50,000. Included in the following wages: Federal (Box 1), Social Security (Box 3), Medicare (Box 5) and New York (Box 16NY).

Box 12E: 403B deductions. Voluntary salary reductions for retirement plan contributions. Generally, this amount may not exceed \$16,500 in calendar year 2009. If you are age 50 or older in 2009, this amount generally may not exceed \$22,000 in 2009.

BOX 13 - RETIREMENT PLAN

There are three check boxes in Box 13. Boxes will be checked off if any of these situations apply to you as an employee.

Retirement plan means that you participated in a retirement plan during the year. As a participant in a retirement plan, your ability to contribute to a tax-deductible traditional IRA may be limited.

BOX 14 - EMPLOYER USE

Other Tax Information. These boxes are used for providing additional tax information to employees. The New School provides information in these boxes representing the amount deducted from your paycheck for the pre-tax Transit and Parking contributions, for Healthcare Flexible Spending Account contributions and for Medical/Dental contributions. If you had not participated in these programs for 2009, you will not see any amounts reported in this box.

New Tax Withholding Forms for 2010 ([W-4, IT-2104, IT-2104.1](#)) can be found in the **Forms** section of the **Payroll Website**.

Below are additional resources available through the Web. Information about filing individual Federal and State tax returns, along with downloadable tax forms, instructions and publications, can be found at the following sites:

- Federal Information and Forms (IRS): www.irs.gov
- State Information and Forms (NY): <http://www.tax.state.ny.us>

EMPLOYEE INFORMATION ONLINE: <https://my.newschoo.edu>

PAYROLL WEBSITE: <http://www.newschoo.edu/admin/treasurer/payroll>