

## ***Guide To Understanding Your 2008 W-2 Form***

Here is a box-by-box tour of your W-2 form and detail of the information that is provided to you on this annual earnings report. We have included items pertinent to State of Oregon payroll. This guide may not be applicable to W-2 forms that you or family members receive from other employers.

<p><b>Box a:</b> Your social security number. Verify that this number is correct! If not, notify your agency payroll officer right away. They will order a corrected W-2 form for you.</p>	<p><b>Box 5:</b> The total of your wages that was subject to the Medicare tax. There is no maximum wage base for this tax.</p>
<p><b>Box b:</b> Employer Identification Number (EIN) This number is not used for your tax return.</p>	<p><b>Box 6:</b> Medicare Tax. Box 5 times 1.45%. The state pays an equal amount to your account.</p>
<p><b>Box c:</b> Your agency name, address and zip code.</p>	<p><b>Box 9:</b> Advance Earned Income Credit payments. If you are eligible and you participate.</p>
<p><b>Box d:</b> Employer control number. It doesn't matter if there is an entry in this box or not. OSPS doesn't use a control number.</p>	<p><b>Box 10:</b> Your Section 125 contributions to a dependent care account.</p>
<p><b>Box e:</b> Your name, home address and zip code. If your address is not correct, you may alter the form. Then, be sure to notify your agency HR office so your address can be corrected in the personnel system.</p>	<p><b>Box 12:</b> Look on the back of your W-2 for descriptions of any letter codes you see here. Included in this box are deferred compensation contributions, non-taxable moving expenses reimbursed by your agency, calculated value of employer-paid life insurance in excess of \$50,000, contributions to a tax-deferred annuity plan.</p>
<p><b>Box 1:</b> Wages and other compensation. This includes salary, hourly pay, differentials, overtime, insurance opt out payments and taxable moving expenses. It also includes the value of domestic partner insurance coverage and any taxable fringe benefits such as educational assistance, meals, employer-paid life insurance in excess of \$50,000 or the commuting use of a state car that you garage at home. This amount is reduced by any contributions you make on a pre-tax basis for benefits and your contributions to the Oregon Savings Growth Plan (deferred compensation).</p>	<p><b>Box 13:</b> The Retirement check box will be marked if you participated in PERS during 2008. If you received third-party sick pay during 2008, you will receive a W-2 from Standard Insurance.</p>
<p><b>Box 2:</b> The total of federal tax withheld from your pay. Based on your taxable earnings and dependent upon the choices you make on your W-4 form.</p>	<p><b>Box 15:</b> Employer state identification number. This is not used on your tax return.</p>
<p><b>Box 3:</b> The total of your wages that was subject to Social Security tax. (For 2008, wages of up to \$102,000)</p>	<p><b>Box 16:</b> Your Oregon taxable income. Includes the same information as Box 1.</p>
<p><b>Box 4:</b> Social Security tax. Box 3 times 6.2%. The state pays an equal amount to your account.</p>	<p><b>Box 17:</b> The total of Oregon state tax withheld from your earnings. Again, based on taxable earnings and your W-4 form.</p>