

BY THE NUMBERS: THE SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST

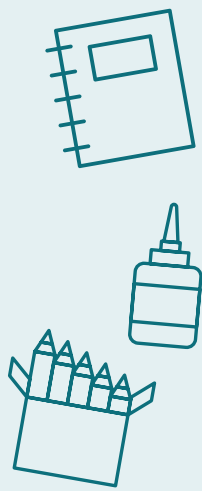


It's a rite of passage. Every year, millions of families head out with a new school supply list to purchase the notebooks, three-ring binders, pencils, crayons, and backpacks that children need to be ready to learn and successful at school.

How do these school lists happen? MDR and WeAreTeachers.com gathered research from around the web and surveyed over 1,500 educators to find out.

**\$37
BILLION**

was spent in 2022 on back-to-school shopping, according to the National Retail Federation.



62%
OF TEACHERS
decide which supplies
will be on their list.

97%
OF TEACHERS
spend out of their
own pockets to stock
their classrooms.

96%

of teachers provide school supplies for students who can't or don't bring their own.

60%

of teachers spend more than \$300 per year to ensure their classrooms have what they need.

Here are just some of the things teachers buy for their classrooms:

CLASSROOM SUPPLIES
rugs PENS SUPPLIES FOR CLASSROOM PARTIES
CLASSROOM Books GLUE STICKS
FOLDERS CLEANING SUPPLIES NOTEBOOKS
CLASSROOM SNACKS
SUPPLIES PAPER SCISSORS
PENCILS Art Supplies BOOKS

71%

request specific brands on their school supply lists.

\$54.75

is the average cost for the items on a student's school supply list.

57%

of schools finalize school supply lists between March and June.

What teachers say:

"It makes me crazy how much teachers need to spend on our classrooms ... even with thrifting, dumpster diving, donations from retiring teachers."

— First-grade Teacher, OK

"Every year I tell myself that I shouldn't have to spend my own money on my classroom and therefore shouldn't do it, but yet I always do because I know it benefits my students."

— Sixth-grade Teacher, MN