

Back-to-School Shopping Guide



Back-to-School Clothing Checklist

Bring this list along when you go shopping to make sure you buy all your kids need to look their best on the first day and throughout the year. Just don't forget to check the dress code at your children's school before you go on your shopping spree.

Clothing

- Jeans
- Khakis
- Skirts and coordinating tops
- Polo shirts
- Button-down dress shirts
- Sweaters and cardigans
- Dresses
- Leggings
- Graphic T-shirts
- Long-sleeved T-shirts
- White T-shirts or tank tops
- Gym shorts or sweatpants
- Sweatshirts
- White socks
- Colored socks
- Underwear

Shoes

- Sneakers
- Dress Shoes

Outerwear

- Rain coat
- Light fall coat
- Umbrella

Accessories

- Jewelry
- Hair accessories
- Scarves
- Belts



School Supplies Checklist

*Use this checklist when doing your shopping for back-to-school supplies.
Remember to check with your child's teacher for any specific requests.*

- Backpack
- Reusable lunch box
- Lunch money holder
- Folders for every subject
- Notebooks for every subject
- Trapper Keeper or Binders
- Subject dividers
- Homework planner or agenda book
- Thesaurus
- Pocket dictionary
- Loose leaf paper
- Pencil pouch
- Pencils
- Pencil Sharpener
- Erasers
- Black, blue, and red pens
- Scissors (or safety scissors if needed)
- Glue stick
- Liquid paper correction fluid
- Sticky notes
- Markers
- Highlighters
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Ruler
- Calculator
- Protractor
- Mini stapler
- Staple remover
- USB flash drive
- Sanitizing hand wipes
- Tissues



Back to School Shopping: Top Ways to \$ave

Shopping for back to school doesn't have to be a budget-buster. Check out these ways to save money when shopping for school supplies—your pocketbook will thank you!

- **Shop for Sales and Special Offers.** Try shopping at multiple stores to catch different sale specials. You may also be able to get a price match by presenting a competitive store's advertisement.
- **Shop at Bargain and Dollar Stores.** Name-brand versions of supplies like pencils, folders, and notebooks may be discounted to around \$1 at dollar stores. You may not find everything you need, but it's worth a shot.
- **Shop Online.** Office supply stores sometimes offer lower prices online—just make sure shipping costs are low too.
- **Check Out Yard Sales and Thrift Stores.** Many times yard sales have unused items, but if your finds have some wear and tear, a little creativity can bring them back to life. You can also find quality vintage accents for a dorm room, if your teen is heading off to college.
- **Recycle Last Year's Supplies.** Give last year's supplies a new look with contact paper, stickers, wrapping paper, photographs, or magazine cutouts. Not only will your wallet thank you, but the Earth will thank you, too.
- **Stock up for Next Year.** Retail stores tend to discount school supplies even more after the "buying season" is over. By thinking ahead and taking advantage of markdowns this year, you're sure to save money for next year.
- **Buy a Reusable Lunch Box.** Ditch those brown paper bags and buy a cute lunch box for your child to bring to school. Not only is this a money-saver, it's also a great way to "go green".
- **Have Your Kids Chip In.** Teach your child the value of a dollar and have him chip in with his own money. It's amazing how much your child does not need when he's the one buying!



Back-to-School Budget



Expenses

Item	\$ Amount Budgeted	\$ Amount Spent
School Supplies		
Backpack		
Pencils/Pens/Highlighters		
Pencil pouch		
Notebooks/Folders		
Assignment notebook		
Loose leaf paper		
Crayons/Markers		
Ruler/Protractor		
Scissors		
Erasers		
Glue		
Other		
Total:		
Electronics		
Calculator		
Computer/Lap top		
Cell phone		
USB flash drive		
Other		
Total:		
Clothing		
Shoes		
Shirts		
Pants/Jeans		
Jacket/Rain coat		
Gym clothes		
Other		
Total:		
Lunch & Accessories		
Lunch box		
Hand sanitizer		
Tissues		
Other		
Total:		

Savings

\$ Amount Budgeted	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Savings