

Supplies for Success

How to host a supply drive to support under-resourced teachers and students



Kids In Need Foundation believes that a quality education is the best gateway to opportunity, and students cannot achieve their full potential without it. By partnering with teachers and students in under-resourced schools, KINF provides the support for teachers to teach and learners to learn.

Getting Started

Conducting a school supply drive requires the dedication of some time, energy and effort to mobilizing a group's efforts.

Here are the aspects of your supply drive to determine before you get started:

Type of drive:

- Collect supplies only
- Collect supplies + financial support (designated for supplies)
- Collect financial support only designated for supplies (online and/or in person)

Method of collection:

- One-day event
- Designated time frame of collection (week/month/etc.)

Additional collection ideas:

- A one-day event where donations are brought to one location to fill a school bus/large truck.
- A week or month-long collection with barrels or boxes in stores, businesses and highly trafficked areas for people to drop off their donations.



The Supplies



KINF provides the support for teachers to teach and learners to learn.

Here is a list of the most requested supplies teachers need for their students:

-  Single Subject Notebooks (*Wide Ruled Preferred*)
-  Crayons (*24-pack preferred*)
-  Washable Markers
-  Package #2 Pencils
-  Round Tip Scissors
-  Colored Pencils
-  Pencil Pouches
-  Rulers
-  Erasers
-  Pencil Sharpeners
-  Folders
-  Boxes of facial tissue
-  Individual Dry Erase Boards
-  Hand Sanitizer
-  Feminine Products (*Tampons / Pads*)
-  One-gallon zip-locked plastic bags

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Once you've decided on how to host a supply drive, here are the next steps:

1. **Create communications materials** and distribute them to your supporters. KINF has prepared a toolkit with sample social media messages and graphics to support you -- they can be accessed [at this link](#). If you are interested in setting up a donation page for your group, contact Lindsey Mitchell at lmitchell@kinf.org to make arrangements.
2. **Start your collection!** Get your friends, family, community groups, workout buddies, and colleagues involved!
3. **Complete your drive!** The first thing you'll do after your drive is over is complete [this form](#).
4. **Ship or deliver your collected supplies.**
 - Supplies can be shipped free of charge courtesy of our generous partner, Zappos and its [Zappos for Good](#) initiative. Once you are on the page, scroll down and click the 'Login to Print' button under the Kids In Need Foundation logo. Simply box up the collected supplies, print and attach a unique label for each box (up to 50 lbs.) and drop your boxes off at any UPS shipping location. Labels will be pre-addressed to be shipped to KINF headquarters.
 - For our Twin Cities neighbors, donations can be dropped off to our home office during receiving hours (Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Our office is located at 2719 Patton Rd, Roseville, MN 55113. Please ring the doorbell at Dock Door "A" upon arrival and one of our team members will meet you.
5. **Follow-up.** Send thank you letters to those that supported your drive. In your communication, let them know how many supplies were collected and the importance of their contribution in providing resources for underserved students.

WHY your supply drive matters

Roughly 15 million children in the U.S. currently live in poverty and are expected to attend school without the basic supplies they need to succeed. Teachers dedicated to serving these students face the added burden of funding much-needed supplies themselves, often from their own pockets. Underserved communities across America are fighting an uphill battle to deliver quality education to all students. Chronic absenteeism and rampant teacher burnout combine to keep students from receiving the education they need to help them reach their full potential.

Your support helps us empower teachers to teach and learners to learn. It's more than just a backpack.

In an annual survey to more than 9,000 KINF educators, teachers responded that:

91%

of students arrive on the first day of school without all necessary supplies

92%

of students do not have adequate supplies at home to complete their schoolwork

94%

of educators spend between one and two paychecks a year on supplies

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What makes a great supply drive?

Here are just a few ideas help you plan your school supply drive. People of all ages can make a difference in the achievements of students during the school year by participating:

Make it an event. Build excitement by planning your supply drive over a fixed timeframe. Establish a goal to encourage further participation.

The power of one. Hold a drive for just one item, like notebooks or folders. We can never have enough of the six core items- pencils, folders, notebooks, crayons, glue sticks, and markers.

Partner with an organization. Try involving community service organizations like the Lions Club or sports leagues.

Try something fun. What about holding your drive in conjunction with a jump rope contest or chalk sidewalk art that can be shared on social media? Turn your drive into a fun celebration of what having the right supplies can do.

Shopping for good. How about reaching out to local retailers and merchants to help you connect with their customers? Provide posters for their storefront or share some of the graphics for their social media channels.

Get social. Tap into your online social network to get the word out, look for volunteers, and share supply drive information.

"When every student has what they need it promotes an equal learning environment... providing opportunities for academic and social success."

Third Grade Special Education Teacher

Tell the Story

KINF's mission is to see all children in America receive equal access to a quality education as it is the single most important factor in setting children up for success. Teachers remain the key to unlocking students' potential in the classroom as a stepping stone to the rest of their life.

The Need. More than 30 million students are enrolled in the federal government's free and reduced lunch program. For these students, school supplies are a luxury. Many arrive at school without a single pencil or notebook, unable to participate in day-to-day lessons and activities.

Show the Connection. When asked about the impact that access to free school supplies has students, educators reported the following:

- 95%: Access to free supplies is critical to creating a more equal learning environment for students.
- 91%: Increase in preparedness
- 83%: Significant increase in participation
- 78%: Significant increase in student self-esteem