

Classroom Central



About Classroom Central:

Classroom Central equips students in need to effectively learn by collecting and distributing free school supplies to their teachers.

We serve teachers and students in nearly 200 schools across six school districts in NC and SC, including Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Gaston County, Union County, Iredell/Statesville, Kannapolis City and Lancaster County Schools.

We give away free school supplies through the following programs: Online Ordering with Curbside Pick-Up for teachers; bulk distributions direct to schools and partner organizations; a Mobile Free Store truck; a brick-and-mortar Free Store for teachers; and a New Teacher Supply Subscription Box (launching fall 2021).

Stats about Students in Poverty:

- In 2019, 13.6% of North Carolinians lived in poverty — an income of just \$25,750 for a family of four. This means the state entered the pandemic with over 1.4 million residents in poverty, and many more North Carolinians are likely to experience poverty during their lifetimes. — [NC Justice Center](#)
- Charlotte ranks last among America's 50 largest cities in Upward Mobility. For a child born in poverty here, it is harder to get out of poverty than any other large city in the U.S. — [For CLT](#)
- 1 in 5 North Carolinians under 18, or over 430,000 children, live in poverty. — [NC Justice Center](#)
- 14% of children live below the poverty level in Charlotte, NC. — [City Data](#)
- 4,500 CMS students are homeless. — [WCNC](#)
- 1 in 2 local students comes to school empty-handed. — Classroom Central Teacher Survey
- 91% of children living in poverty start the first day of school without all the necessary supplies. — [Kids in Need Foundation](#)
- 94% of students living in poverty ran out of school supplies by the start of second semester. — [Kids in Need Foundation](#)
- Every Failing school in Mecklenburg County and 72% of schools with a D rating have student poverty rates of 50% or higher; all of the schools with an A rating and 86% of the schools with a B rating have a student poverty rates of 50% or less. — [UNC, Census](#)
- NC ranks 45th in spending at about \$9,400 per pupil. — [Educationdata.org](#)

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Education Stats during the Pandemic:

- Chronic Absenteeism in CMS has increased by nearly 30%. — [CMS](#)
- Fail rates in CMS have doubled. — [WCNC](#)
- CMS reports that “32.9% of its students are falling behind and failing at least one course, with Black students, Hispanic students, English learners and students with disabilities having the highest class failure rate.” — [Axios](#)
- Studies estimate students have experienced 10 months of learning loss, with students of color experiencing up to 16 months. — [McKinsey & Company](#)

Teachers:

- CMS teachers’ salaries start at \$35,000. — CMS
- On average, teachers spend up to \$1,000 out-of-pocket on school supplies every year, which equates to one to two weeks of pay. — [Kids in Need Foundation](#)
- Over 70% of teachers surveyed report free school supplies help improve students’ social skills, interest in school, self-esteem, participation, and preparedness. — [Kids in Need Foundation](#)

Literacy:

- Until third grade, students learn to read. After third grade, students read to learn.
- Only 40% of Charlotte Mecklenburg third graders read at grade level. — [National Assessment of Educational Progress](#)
- Reading at grade level by the end of third grade is the single most important predictor of success – studies show that 96% of children reading at grade level by the end of third grade will graduate high school. — [National Assessment of Educational Progress](#)
- 47% of 3rd – 12th graders surveyed report having no more than one shelf of books in their homes. — [Read Charlotte](#)
- 83% of teachers surveyed report not having enough books for their classroom. — [Read Charlotte](#)

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2019-2020 Classroom Central Impact:

- Classroom Central serves teachers and students in schools that have at least 50% of the student population receiving Free & Reduced lunch.
- Classroom Central transforms every \$1 donated into \$9 worth of school supplies distributed into our community.
- \$5,169,389 in supplies were distributed.
- 71,840 students received supplies.
- 196 schools were served in 6 school districts.
- On average, teachers received \$468 worth of supplies with each visit to Classroom Central.
- 2,190 volunteers contributed 13,474 hours to serve local teachers and students.
- 100% of teachers report Classroom Central reduced out-of-pocket spending.
- 98% of teachers report Classroom Central had a positive impact on student preparation.
- 95% of teachers report Classroom Central had a positive impact on student-teacher relationships.
- 93% of teachers report that Classroom Central had a positive impact on student confidence.