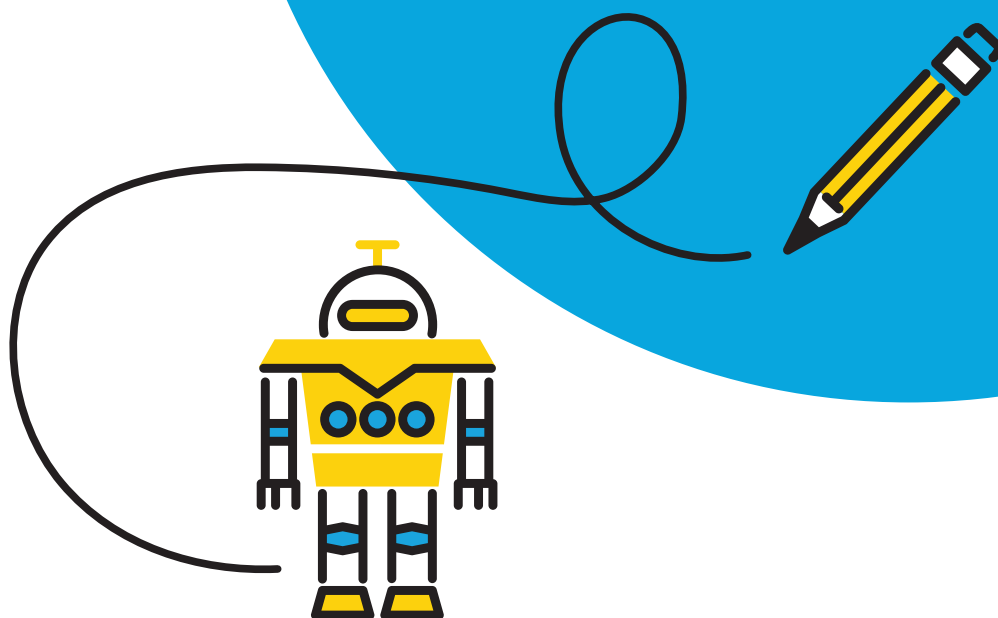


2025-2026



Classroom
Central

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT





When Teachers Are Supplied and Supported, Students Succeed

A Message from Karen Calder Executive Director, Classroom Central

During 2025–2026, Classroom Central continued providing local teachers and students with essential supplies while expanding support for the most important resource in every classroom: teachers.

Every day, local teachers do much more than teach. They build confidence, foster belonging, spark curiosity, and create experiences that allow students to see what is possible.

Teachers are the number one school-related factor influencing student outcomes, and when they are supplied and supported, students are better prepared to learn, participate, and succeed. Supplies are essential, but teachers need more. They need time-saving resources. They need practical learning opportunities. They need encouragement. They need to know that their community sees and appreciates the work they are doing. This kind of support keeps great educators in the profession and ensures more students benefit from an effective teacher who is equipped, encouraged, and able to do their best work.

This impact report reflects what you made possible. Behind every number is a teacher who is more prepared. A student with the supplies to participate in a lesson. A classroom where learning feels more equal. A volunteer, donor, sponsor, or partner who chose to show up for local education.

Thank you for believing in this work and supporting local teachers and students.

Karen Calder



Classroom
Central

Why Supplies AND Support Matter

When teachers have the supplies and support they need, classrooms are stronger. Students have what they need to engage, and teachers do not have to fill the gaps themselves. With recognition, connection, and community, teachers feel valued, develop their skills, and keep growing in their work.

For students, that means having the tools to learn and a supported teacher who creates a classroom where they can focus, grow in confidence, and succeed.



"Having the right supplies isn't extra — it's foundational. When classrooms are fully equipped, students can focus, participate, and succeed."

2025-2026 Teacher Survey

In our 2025-2026 Teacher Survey, teachers reported that resources from Classroom Central:

97%

helped create a more equal learning environment

99%

had a positive impact on student preparation

95%

allowed them to meet students' educational needs

86%

had a positive impact on student confidence



2025-2026

Impact by the Numbers

5,010

Teachers Served

80,402

Students Served

5,293

Volunteers
Contributed

14,410

Volunteer Hours

306

Schools Served

6

School
Districts Served



\$13,180,844

in Supplies Distributed

2,854,834

Items Distributed

\$588

Average Value of Supplies
per Teacher Visit

Each number represents a moment:

- a teacher finding exactly what their students need in the Free Store
- a volunteer spending their morning stocking shelves
- a donor's gift that multiplies into classroom resources
- a student opening a backpack filled with supplies for the school year ahead.

Moments Behind the Metrics



Celebrating Teachers

Classroom Central expanded its school-based teacher appreciation program this year, from 8 to 11 partner schools creating moments of recognition, encouragement, and connection throughout the year. With the generosity and energy of partners including Coca-Cola Consolidated, PwC, Taylor Moton, and The Pearl, teachers were celebrated in ways that felt personal and meaningful — from surprise moments and thoughtful gifts to shared experiences that reminded them they are seen, valued, and supported.

Together, these efforts strengthened school culture, improved morale, and reminded educators that their work matters every day.

Moments Behind the Metrics

DAVID &
NICOLE
TEPPER
foundation

Meeting More Students, More Ways

A trusted partner, committed to education equity and passionate about developing innovative ways to reach more teachers and students, The David & Nicole Tepper Foundation increased their investment in Backpacks & Basics and Learning Lockers to expand access to essential school supplies where the need is greatest.

Thanks to their support of Backpacks & Basics, this year every economically-disadvantaged student across every district we serve received a backpack filled with the school supplies to start the year ready to learn.

Learning Lockers opened in three new schools to provide more than 3,100 students with supplies throughout the school year. These on-campus supply hubs bring essential classroom materials closer to teachers and students where distance can make it hard to visit the Free Store.

This reflects a partnership that understands the need and responds to create greater access to resources for local teachers and students.



"Having a pencil or the paper a student needs can make a real difference, Classroom Central bridges that gap. **The Learning Locker** saves time, supports student performance, and means I can get supplies without carrying the financial burden myself."

-Quentasia Lowery, 6th Grade Teacher,
Ridge Road Middle School



Moments Behind the Metrics



Shared Purpose. Shared Impact

Classroom Central's corporate sponsors share a belief that every student deserves the opportunity to succeed and that strong communities begin with strong schools. That common purpose makes these partnerships meaningful for the organizations, their employees, and local students.

Financial support makes this work possible, strengthening programs that reach teachers and students throughout the year. Volunteer opportunities give employees a meaningful, hands-on way to see their impact firsthand.

Every interaction impacts students, deepens connections between organizations and the communities they serve, and makes a lasting difference for everyone involved.



"Classroom Central's mission is rooted in values we share: community, opportunity, and caring for the place we all call home. **The impact on teachers and students is clear, but our employees feel it too.** Being part of the work in hands-on, meaningful ways creates a genuine connection to the community."

Crystal Dunham
Community Relations Lead,
Brighthouse Financial

Moments Behind the Metrics

"The professional development sessions on classroom management, lesson planning and managing teacher stress gave me practical strategies I could use the very next day. You might come for the classroom management tips, but **you leave with something even more valuable: confidence, encouragement and a community that's cheering you on.**"

Chantel Gaither
Southwest Middle School



Learning and Growing Together

Professional development gave educators dedicated time to build essential skills, explore practical strategies, and learn from one another.

Just as important was the environment. A place where teachers felt valued and invested in as professionals. They were given space not only to learn, but to connect and recharge.

Teachers left with practical tools and fresh ideas for their classrooms, stronger relationships with their peers, and renewed energy and excitement for the work ahead.

Moments Behind the Metrics



Supporting Teachers from the Start and Throughout Their Careers

Support matters from the very beginning of a teacher's career and continues to make a difference over time.

Through the Teacher Launch Box program, beginning teachers started their first year with essential resources, encouragement, and a reminder that they were not starting alone.

Taylor Moton's Keeping Teachers in the Game initiative built on that support for teachers at every stage of their careers. Through practical resources and meaningful moments of appreciation, the initiative celebrated, encouraged, and thanked the educators who show up for their students every day.

"Athletes don't succeed alone. You need training, teammates, coaches, and people who believe in you. Teaching is no different. When teachers are supported and appreciated, they can be their best. That's when students win. I know what it's like to have people behind you so you can do your job well. This is my way of being part of teachers' support system."

**Taylor Moton, Carolina Panthers
Right Tackle**

Moments Behind the Metrics

"In the Free Store, you watch supplies come in, fill the shelves, and leave in teachers' carts headed to classrooms. It's a reminder that every item matters. Classroom Central brings donors, businesses, sponsors, and volunteers together for teachers and students, and I'm proud to help turn that generosity into something real."

Kathy Thomas
Eight-Year Volunteer, Free Store Regular
and Past Board Member



Showing Up for Teachers and Students

None of this would be possible without the support of every individual who chose to show up.

You packed the backpacks, stocked the Free Store shelves, donated and sorted supplies, made financial gifts, hosted drives, shared expertise, sponsored events. Every contribution mattered. Together, you created moments of encouragement for teachers, confidence for students, and possibilities in classrooms across our community.

Moments Behind the Metrics



Meeting Today's Need: 1 Million+ Supplies

Every summer, School Tools brings individuals, companies and community groups together to collect the essentials teachers and students need. Last year, your donations stacked up to more than one million supplies—stocking our shelves so teachers could load their carts for the school year ahead.



Gifts That Shape What Comes Next

Every gift begins with an individual decision. To answer an immediate need, give regularly, invest in the mission, or leave a legacy. Together, each decision gives Classroom Central the capacity to plan and evolve as the needs of teachers and students change. From School Tools donors stepping up at back-to-school to monthly Champions, SEED donors, and everyone who gives financially or contributes supplies, this community enables Classroom Central to meet today's needs while building for tomorrow, turning pencils into possibilities.

Investing for Tomorrow:

150+ SEED Members

Through the Society for Excellent Education (SEED), donors make a multiyear commitment to the mission and the future of our work. Last year, that community grew to more than 150 members, giving us greater confidence to plan boldly, stay ahead of changing needs and shape how we support teachers and students.

Moments Behind the Metrics



Coming Full Circle: From Teacher to Volunteer



"Standing
beside the volunteers,
the teachers, the donors who
care...it empowers me as well.
I know I can make a difference"

Carman Le,
VP, Strategic Training Partner,
Synchrony

For Carman Le, Classroom Central's impact is personal. Before becoming a corporate volunteer, Carman was a fifth-grade teacher in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Title I schools, where she saw firsthand how deeply students were affected when families could not afford the supplies on a school list.

Classroom Central helped her quietly fill those gaps. Students could participate without embarrassment, parents felt relief, and Carman could focus on teaching and creating a classroom where every student felt prepared.

Years later, Carman returned as a volunteer with Synchrony, introducing colleagues to Classroom Central through classroom kit packing and Backpacks & Basics. Many had not realized the extent of the need in their own community. Once they experienced the work firsthand, they wanted to do more.

"The impact is real and immediate. Every notebook, pencil and backpack goes directly into a child's hands."

Having experienced Classroom Central as both a teacher and volunteer, Carman knows the work is about more than supplies. It creates confidence, relief and connection—and reminds teachers that they and their work matter.



Continue the Impact

This Impact Report is about you. You gave generously, volunteered your time, donated supplies, sponsored programs, hosted supply drives and stood up for teachers and students. There are many ways to keep that impact going.

Give

Every \$1 provides \$9 in supplies and resources for local classrooms.

Volunteer

Sort, stock, pack, and prepare resources for teachers and students.

Donate Supplies

Provide the essential items teachers need throughout the school year.

Host a Supply Drive

Bring your workplace, school, faith community, neighborhood, or group together to support local classrooms.

Sponsor a Program or Event

Expand access to supplies, teacher support, professional development, and community engagement.

Get Your Team Involved

Create a hands-on service experience that connects your team to local impact.



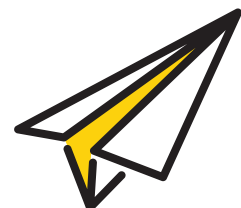
See how you can participate in our 2026 Back-To-School Campaign today!

Your support ensures local teachers and students have the resources they need. Because when teachers are supplied and supported, students succeed.

And when students thrive, our whole community is stronger.



Thank you for
your support!
**You make a
difference!**



**Classroom
Central**

TURNING PENCILS INTO POSSIBILITIES

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