

5 Ways to Save on Back-to-School Shopping

Notebooks, pencils, backpacks, clothes... the start of a new school year requires lots of new supplies – and that means lots of expenses for parents. Eager to learn a few easy ways to cut costs during this year's back-to-school shopping season? Just check out the five tips below!

Swap clothes and supplies with other parents.

This is a great way to get needed items for free! If there isn't a clothing and/or supply swap already taking place in your area, consider setting one up yourself. Invite your neighbors or friends to stop by with their gently-used items and set up a few basic ground rules for the swap. For instance, you may want to advise participants that they can select one item for each item donated.

Follow your favorite stores on social media.

It's not uncommon for retailers to reward their social media followers with special coupons or early announcements of upcoming sales. So – if you're a social media user – jot down a list of stores you often visit for back-to-school items, become a follower of their social media accounts and regularly check their posts.

Shop at the dollar store.

Though you may not have as many options at the dollar store as you would at other retail establishments, it's worth checking out to see if you can find some of the needed items on your student's supply list.

Put off clothing purchases.

Despite all the back-to-school clothing sales that take place in the late summer months, many stores offer their best clothing prices in September or October. If your student has enough clothing to get by for the first few weeks or month of school, consider purchasing the bulk of his or her clothes later in the season.

Stock up for next year now.

Just as clothing often goes on sale once the back-to-school madness is over, so, too, do school supplies. Be proactive in saving yourself money next year by taking advantage of this year's post-season sales. Your future self will thank you for it later!

Sources:

<https://www.moneycrashers.com/back-to-school-supplies-list-tips/>

<https://www.consumerreports.org/school-supplies/how-to-save-money-on-back-to-school-supplies/>

<https://www.familycircle.com/family-fun/money/back-to-school-shopping-savings/>

