



Get organized for school - sales tax holidays

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Get organized for a weekend or a week of tax-free shopping in your state.
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One of the sure signs that it's back-to-school time is the yearly sales tax holidays offered by 15 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

If you're the parent of a school-age child, you may already be aware of this weekend- or sometimes week-long opportunity to purchase school supplies and clothing without the added tax burden. You can save 4%, 5%, or even more depending on your location.

To be prepared for your local back-to-school sales tax holiday, get organized before hitting the stores:

1. Contact your child's school - or visit the school's web site - to find out what supplies are required or preferred for the upcoming school year. Print or write a list to check off while you shop.
2. Inventory the school supplies you may already have at home: leftover materials from the last school year, items unused by older children but still useable by younger ones, office supplies not being used by the adults that make useful school supplies for the kids. Check any items off the school's list that you already have.
3. Take this opportunity to get your child's room organized, especially closets and clothing. (See the Get Organized two-part series on [organizing kids' rooms](#).) Make it a team effort, and help your child see what still fits, what doesn't, what is beyond repair and what should be replaced.
4. Make a list of items your child will need, keeping school sports and activities in mind as well as expected growth between the beginning and end of the year.

Find a sales tax holiday near you. Here are some links to get started:

[Alabama](#)
[Connecticut](#)
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