

# AID FOR EDUCATORS Inc.

"Aid for Educators is 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to pursue donations and grants to help our teachers with supplies."

"Here to Aid" NEWSLETTER March 2013 vol. 6

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## Budgets cut, teachers dig deeper for supplies

When English teacher Stacey DeCotis first saw her new fifth-grade Hanover classroom, it had some desks and not much else. So she went shopping for a small library of books and a host of decorations to liven things up.

Then, with the first day of school just around the corner, DeCotis paid a visit to Teachers Rule, an educational supply store in Rockland, where she stocked up on supplies and personalized items for the students' first day.

In all, DeCotis spent several hundred dollars - all from her own pocket - to get ready for the first day of classes.

"Some people think I'm crazy to spend so much," she said as she perused the aisles

one morning. "But I'm not alone."

Public school teachers paying for classroom supplies is not new. But today's stumbling economy has deepened the need, as budget-crunched schools look to trim costs and more students show up without even basic supplies.

Teachers describe their out-of-pocket expense as an occupational hazard. How much they spend, and how readily, varies considerably. But with schools and families under financial strain, most feel obligated to chip in.

"A lot of students these days can't afford to bring a notebook," said Laura Mulcahy, a fourth-grade teacher in Quincy. "I want everyone to have what they need."

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## Status of Aid4Edu

[501\(c\)3 Exempt Status Letter](#) - We would like to thank Rep. Joe Barton and his staff for expediting our tax exempt application. [Rep. Barton's Web Page](#). We are now a nonprofit organization and can accept tax deduction donations and grants.

Our 2012 donors can deduct their donations on their tax returns.

We are now actively asking for donations and grants to help supply our teachers starting the 2013-2014 school year.



Show your love and respect for teachers. Check our various designs. All proceeds will be used for our teachers.



AB/amy

**Donate Now!**  
**It's Tax**  
**Deductable!**  
**Help fund our**  
**teachers for the**  
**2013-2014**  
**school year!**

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*I am a teacher,  
 hear me shout. It's  
 my life's calling, no  
 doubt.*

*I will bend but not  
 break. I grow  
 stronger for the  
 student's sake*

*I am not a novice  
 anymore. Come  
 see, enter my  
 classroom door.*

*I am strong  
 I am invincible  
 I am a teacher*

### Teachers Spend Own Money for Supplies

Mulcahy estimated she spends several hundred dollars on supplies and furniture, including rugs and bookcases, beyond her \$200 yearly classroom account.

At many schools, students are asked to bring an ever-expanding list of supplies to class. In Melrose, for instance, parents of fifth-graders must buy pencils (#2 Adirondacks, if possible), colored pencils, crayons, markers, highlighters, glue sticks, and Post-it Notes and tabs.

At many elementary and middle schools, particularly in wealthier towns, students are asked to bring paper towels, tissues, and sanitary wipes for classrooms, as well as tennis balls for the feet of chairs to protect floors and stop squeaking.

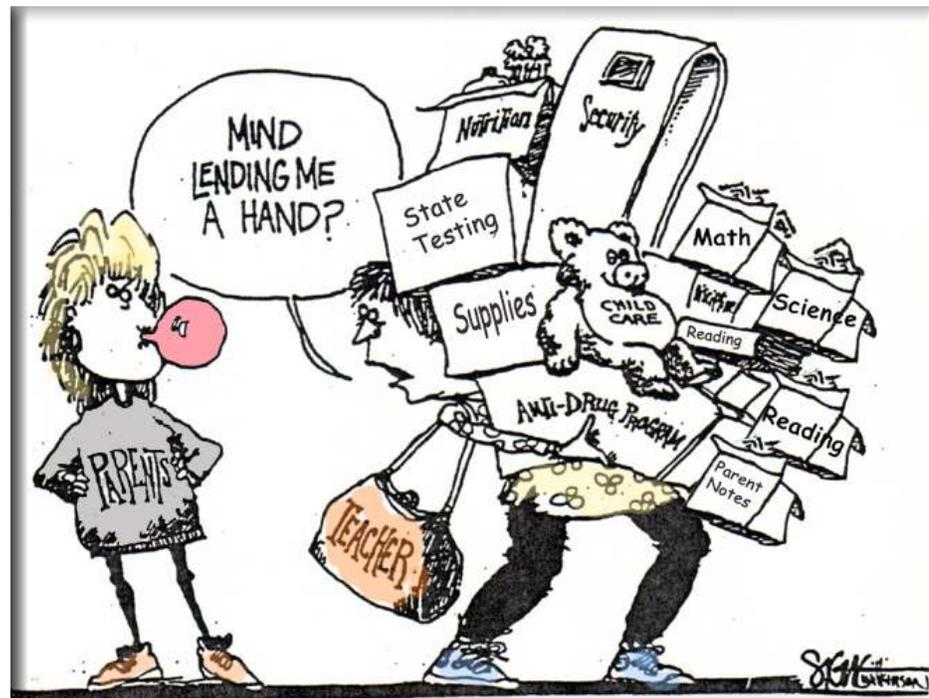
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"It's understood that with budget cuts, teachers have to do more on their own," said Stephanie Powers, 25, a first-grade teacher in Whitman. "If I didn't, the classroom wouldn't look good, and it wouldn't be organized."

Excerpts from an article

By Peter Schworm, The Boston Globe

### Reasons Why Teachers Buy Supplies



Informed and caring parents DO NOT have this attitude. But, too many parents do have the attitude; "I don't care what a teacher endures or spends".