



# ACCESS TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES ACT OF 2022

## **Access to School Supplies Act of 2022** **Reps. Cori Bush, Jamaal Bowman, and Jahana Hayes**

Each school year, millions of students, families, and teachers struggle to afford basic school supplies needed for students to achieve academic success. On average, families spend more than \$860 on school supplies, with teachers spending around \$750 each year to buy supplies out-of-pocket. Students are forced to reuse old supplies, buy lower quality generic products, or simply attend school without the necessary school supplies.

The **Access to School Supplies Act of 2022** would bolster federal investments in our nation's public schools by implementing a **\$500 million pilot program** to provide students, teachers, librarians, and support staff with school supplies at no cost.

The purpose of this legislation is to:

- Provide school supplies at no cost to students and instructional staff;
- Increase the number of students who have access to the school supplies needed to maintain a stable learning environment; and
- Improve student academic achievement in schools, particularly for low-income students.

The Secretary of Department of Education would allocate \$100 million a year to:

- **10 local educational agencies (LEAs)** with at least one high-poverty school in their district through competitive grants that require applications to the Department of Education;
- the **Bureau of Indian Education (BIE)** through formula grants that do not require applications, to alleviate the burden of the BIE competing with larger LEAs; and
- **outlying areas** (American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) through formula grants that do not require applications.

This legislation is targeted toward high-poverty schools to ensure the resources are directed towards our students most in need. The **Access to School Supplies Act of 2022** would help alleviate the rising cost burden of purchasing school supplies away from teachers, families, and nonprofits, and bolster federal investment in our nation's public schools.

The bill text can be found [here](#).

The **Access to School Supplies Act** is endorsed by: National Education Association, SchoolHouse Connection, Board of Education for the City of St. Louis, All4Ed, American Consortium for Equity in Education, American Youth Policy Forum, American Federation of Teachers Missouri, and American Federation of Teachers St. Louis.