



# Tips on to Save Money During Back-to-School Season



It may seem like school just let out, but it's already time to start thinking about the new school year! With back-to-school specials running all summer long, parents and students can start their shopping early and spread it out to avoid a hefty back-to-school shopping bill all at once.

Better Business Bureau (BBB) offers up the following tips on how to shop smart when starting your back-to-school or back-to-college shopping:

- **Make a list.** You can either wait for the school supplies list to come out, or start shopping without it. Even if you don't have the exact list, you should have an idea of what to purchase regarding school clothes, and basic supplies. Jot everything down on a list and stick to it! Impulse buying can jack up your overall total in a hurry.
- **Shop your home.** You may already have some of the items from last year hidden in your home. Why purchase the same thing twice?
- **Research big ticket items.** Before purchasing that expensive laptop, tablet or dorm refrigerator, be sure to do your research. Research the brands, warranty, customer reviews and the prices at various stores to be sure you're getting the best deal. Also check the retailer out with BBB at [bbb.org](http://bbb.org).
- **Look for the sales.** Compare prices between different retail stores, save your coupons, sign up for email alerts and redeem any cash-back or rebate offers. This will help you get the best deals.
- **Ask for student discounts.** Many stores and software companies offer discounts to students that have either an .edu email address or a student ID. Even if you don't see a discount advertised at the store, it doesn't hurt to ask.
- **Shop in bulk.** Some teachers ask parents to buy bulk items for the entire classroom to use throughout the year. Talk with other parents about what they're getting, and see if you can all split the cost.
- **Know the return policies and save your receipts.** Kids can be fickle. They can love a new shirt yesterday but hate it today. Ask about return policies before making your purchase. Be sure to save your receipts just in case you have to return the item later.

**Report scams or find out more about a company by contacting your BBB at 520-888-6363 or visiting [bbb.org](http://bbb.org).**