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JEFFERSON CITY

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Preparing for a New School Year

Parents and Students Gear Up for Another Productive Academic Year

Each summer seems to pass more quickly, and these summer months have been no exception. With much anticipation, students around the state are getting ready for another school year. For many, this means new school supplies, clothes, and shoes. However, some children do not have the luxury of receiving these necessary supplies to learn.

Most students receive a back-to-school supply list each year. When you are out shopping for this year's supplies, please pick up a few extra items to donate to those in need. Supplies could include backpacks, notebook paper, folders, glue sticks, rulers, colored pencils, and crayons. Several office supply businesses and discount merchandisers house a back-to-school drop box in their stores.

And let's not forget clothing. On the first day of school, everyone wants to look their best. Self-esteem goes hand-in-hand with learning in today's school environment. These days, many families are living paycheck to paycheck and are feeling the economic burn. Even the smallest donation can help a child enter the classroom feeling ready to learn. Clothing (such as pants, shirts, and socks) and shoes are much sought-after items.

Missouri is also providing a tax break for consumers who purchase back-to-school items. Families will once again get the chance to save at the cash register during the Missouri sales tax holiday, set for Aug. 7-9. Back-to-school items exempted from state sales tax include clothes, school supplies, and computers. Local governments have the option of participating in the holiday by rescinding their city or county sales taxes. Depending on where you plan to shop, savings earned over the weekend could keep more hard-earned dollars in your wallet.

The tax waiver applies to the following purchases:

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- Clothing – any article having a taxable value of \$100 or less.
 - School supplies – not to exceed \$50 per purchase.
 - Computer software – taxable value of \$350 or less.
 - Personal computers – not to exceed \$3,500.
 - Computer peripheral devices – not to exceed \$3,500.

For an exact listing of cities and counties participating in the sales tax holiday and for more information about qualifying items, visit www.dor.mo.gov or call the Department of Revenue at (573) 751-2836. And if you are interested in donating back-to-school items to children for this upcoming school year, the [United Way](#) and [Salvation Army](#) are great organizations to contribute these items to. Also, keep a look out for school supply drives that are accepting back-to-school donations.

I urge you to donate back-to-school supplies this year so children in your community, district, and state can have a great start to their new school year. If you have any questions about donating back-to-school materials, this year's sales tax holiday or any other legislative matter, please feel free to contact me at (573) 751-8793 or by e-mail at: delbertscott@senate.mo.gov.

Senator Delbert Scott represents the people of Barton, Benton, Cedar, Dallas, Henry, Hickory, Pettis, Polk and St. Clair counties in the Missouri Senate.

