



Mass Teacher Resources



Mass Teacher Resources (MTR) helps teachers in Greater Boston at economically disadvantaged schools access the resources needed to create welcoming, inclusive, and safe learning environments for students. We provide free classroom supplies to teachers at Title 1 elementary and middle schools (K-8) in 70 communities in Greater Boston through the MTR Free Store, located in Woburn, MA.

Teachers in Massachusetts spend an average of \$750 each year of their own money on classroom supplies.



Items purchased most often include basic school supplies as well as bulletin board materials, instructional aides, craft supplies and student incentives. Over the course of a career this spending can add up to tens of thousands of dollars. For many educators, it is a determining factor in their decision to leave the profession.

There is a real crisis in public education. For local districts in Gateway communities, with funding shortfalls or those struggling with low test scores, teacher retention is a constant challenge. Across the state, the average teacher retention rate year to year is 75%; in high needs communities the average is 60%. Each year, these districts lose almost half of their teachers. In this situation new teachers lack mentorship and support, and the cycle of attrition continues. And some of the most at-risk children in the state too often pay the price.

In September 2024, MTR opened the only Teacher Free Store in the state. Our goal is to serve as a source of support for local teachers, to help alleviate the financial burden they take on to ensure their students have the supplies they need to learn. The MTR Free Store is also a place where teachers can meet and talk and learn from each other. The impact is that teachers feel more supported and can more fully focus on their students' educational needs. Students thrive in classrooms with equitable access to supplies and materials. An added benefit: PTOs can allocate funds to student enrichment, and not classroom supplies. **The outcome is higher teacher retention and student achievement – a real win-win for our public schools.**

Please turn over to continue

The MTR Free Store

The MTR Free Store at 400 West Cummings Park, Woburn, is a convenient and accessible space for local teachers to shop for free school supplies. Items available include classroom and office supplies, curriculum materials and workbooks, cleaning supplies, arts & crafts materials, instructional aides, and books for students of all ages.

The MTR Free Store serves teachers at Title 1 elementary and middle schools (K-8) in Greater Boston, broadly defined as encompassed by Routes 128 and 495. Teachers book an appointment to shop online, providing basic information about their students and school. A district-issued ID is required at store check-in; teachers then browse the store, selecting the items they need from existing inventory.

**This school year 234 teachers from 62 schools shopped the MTR Free Store.
More than 6,400 students across 25 communities will benefit from these supplies.
And this is just the beginning!**



The Opportunity

We invite your interest in support of this important new endeavor. During this crucial first year, an infusion of resources is paramount to our success. **There are many ways to partner with us to support local teachers!** Financial donations provide foundational support to sustain and grow our operations, and are recognized with prominent signage at the MTR Free Store and through all media channels. In-kind support, through supply drives and other events is also welcome, as this helps cover our inventory needs for the MTR Free Store. Your support at any level will help make a difference.

All students should have equal access to the classroom supplies they need. **At Mass Teacher Resources, we believe that teachers should not bear the true cost of equity in our public schools.** We value the efforts of local teachers working to create learning environments in which every student feels welcome and empowered to succeed. **We recognize the potential of the MTR Free Store to lift up local teachers, to free up school resources for student enrichment, and to remove usable classroom supplies from the waste stream.** MTR is dedicated to building a community in which teachers can get the supplies and support they need to thrive in their profession.

Moving forward, we are committed to our efforts to establish, sustain and grow Mass Teacher Resources – and the MTR Free Store – as a dependable and essential source of support for local teachers. **Your support and involvement is important in helping us achieve these ambitious goals.**

Mass Teacher Resources is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, fiscally sponsored by Third Sector New England.

Please mail donations to:

TSNE f/b/o Mass Teacher Resources

89 South Street, Suite 700

Boston, MA 02111

Or contact Maureen Willis, Executive Director: maureen@massteacherresources.org



MTR Free Store Sponsorship Opportunities

Note: Sponsors will be recognized through signage at the MTR Free Store, on our website, on social media and in our email newsletter. Sponsors benefits are offered for the entire school year, through June 2026.

Store Sponsor - \$10,000

The MTR Free Store Sponsor will be clearly identified through 11" x 14" framed signage placed prominently at the store entrance and in the display window. The Store Sponsor will also be recognized with an ad placement in all media releases, email communications and in all promotional materials, and on the MTR website. The Store Sponsor will also have the opportunity to provide promotional materials for distribution to shopping teachers.

STEAM Sponsor - \$5,000

The MTR Free Store includes art supplies, learning tools and manipulatives most requested and used by teachers in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) instruction. The STEAM Sponsor will be recognized with 8" x 10" signage prominently displayed in the MTR Free Store center aisle, with ad placement on the MTR website, in all media releases and email communications.

Rack Sponsor - \$2,500

Rack Sponsors will be recognized with 5" x 7" signage placed on the designated rack, listed in media releases, email communications and on the MTR website.

Shelf Sponsor - \$1,000

Shelf Sponsors will be recognized with 3" x 5" signage placed on the designated shelf, as well as in Store Opening media releases and email communications; Shelf Sponsors will be listed on the MTR website through June 2025.

Bin Sponsor - \$500

Bin Sponsors will be recognized with 2" x 3" signage placed on the designated bin, as well as in Store Opening media releases and materials.

Cart Sponsor - \$250

Cart Sponsors will be recognized with a 2' x 3' sign placed on the designated cart, and listed on the MTR website.

To make a donation online, visit <https://massteacherresources.org/donate-resources/>

Questions? Call 781-281-8425 or email maureen@massteacherresources.org