

2019

Kids In Need Foundation Impact Report





A year in the life of our teachers

Each year presents a unique opportunity to take stock in the reality of education in America's most vulnerable communities. Roughly 15 million children in the U.S. currently live in poverty and are expected to attend school without the basic supplies they need to succeed. Teachers dedicated to serving these students face the added burden of funding much-needed supplies themselves, often from their own pockets.

This report provides a snapshot of the current reality for nearly 9,000 of these teachers. Since 2015, KINF has engaged our network of educators in this effort. As lenses into the communities they serve, our teachers help us understand their current needs, the efficacy of our work, and the ways we can serve them better in the coming year.

The 2019 responses make it clear that schools in under-served communities continue to fight an uphill battle. Chronic absenteeism and under-resourced classrooms lead to high teacher burnout and attrition. Without students having the necessary tools to be successful in their classrooms and teachers equipped with materials they need to teach, it will continue to be a challenge to create equitable learning to break the cycle of poverty in these communities. Our findings show that by supplying schools with the resources they need, we can begin to close the very real opportunity gap for these students.

2019 BY THE NUMBERS



15 million

American children live in poverty



30 million
Children rely on **free**

or reduced lunch programs

An estimated
200,000
teachers served by
KINF centers and programs



An estimated
5 million
students served by KINF centers and programs



43

Resource Centers



Each year
we provide over
\$100MM
in resources

A greater purpose

We believe every child in America should have equal opportunity and access to a quality education.

By partnering with teachers and students in under-resourced schools, we provide the support needed for teachers to teach and learners to learn.



We help [combat absenteeism](#) by ensuring students are properly equipped to participate and succeed in the classroom, and [remove the barrier of need](#) from their decision to go to school each day



We help [bolster teacher confidence](#) by supplying them with adequate resources to set up effective classrooms and [lessen the burden on their personal finances](#)



CORE VALUES

At KINF, we are driven by three core values:



The Value of Education

A quality education is the best gateway to opportunity, and students cannot achieve their full potential without it



The Value of Teachers

Teachers know what's essential to helping students learn. They are the key to unlocking a student's potential



The Value of Dignity

We strive to serve in a way that recognizes and protects the inherent dignity of both teachers and students

What need looks like

For families living in poverty, school supplies often take a backseat to essentials like food, clothing, and transportation.



Over **90%** of respondents reported that **only one out of four** students **has the supplies they need** to succeed throughout the year

BY THE NUMBERS



91%

start the first day of school without all necessary supplies



92%

do not have adequate supplies at home to complete schoolwork



94%

run out of supplies by the start of the second semester

Teachers fill the funding gap

Where school and district budgets fall short, teachers reach into their own pockets to make sure their students have what they need.

In short, these communities depend on teachers to sacrifice from their own salaries to do their jobs well, an expectation unheard of in any other industry. This adds undue financial pressure to teachers and contributes to teacher burnout in schools that need them the most.



99%

of teachers purchased classroom supplies with personal funds



94%

For many, this represents **between one and two paychecks a year**



I moved from a Title I school, and my budget went from \$1,500 a year for supplies to \$0. It isn't equitable. I rely on donations so my students can do basic classroom projects that all students should have access to.”

Fifth Grade Teacher



Supplies even the playing field

A lack of adequate school supplies weighs heavily on both teachers and students. By stocking classrooms and backpacks with essential supplies, we create environments where teachers can focus on teaching and learners have equal opportunity to learn.



95%

of respondents said access to free supplies is critical or very important to creating a more equal learning environment for their students

“

When every student has what they need it promotes an equal learning environment... providing opportunities for academic and social success.”

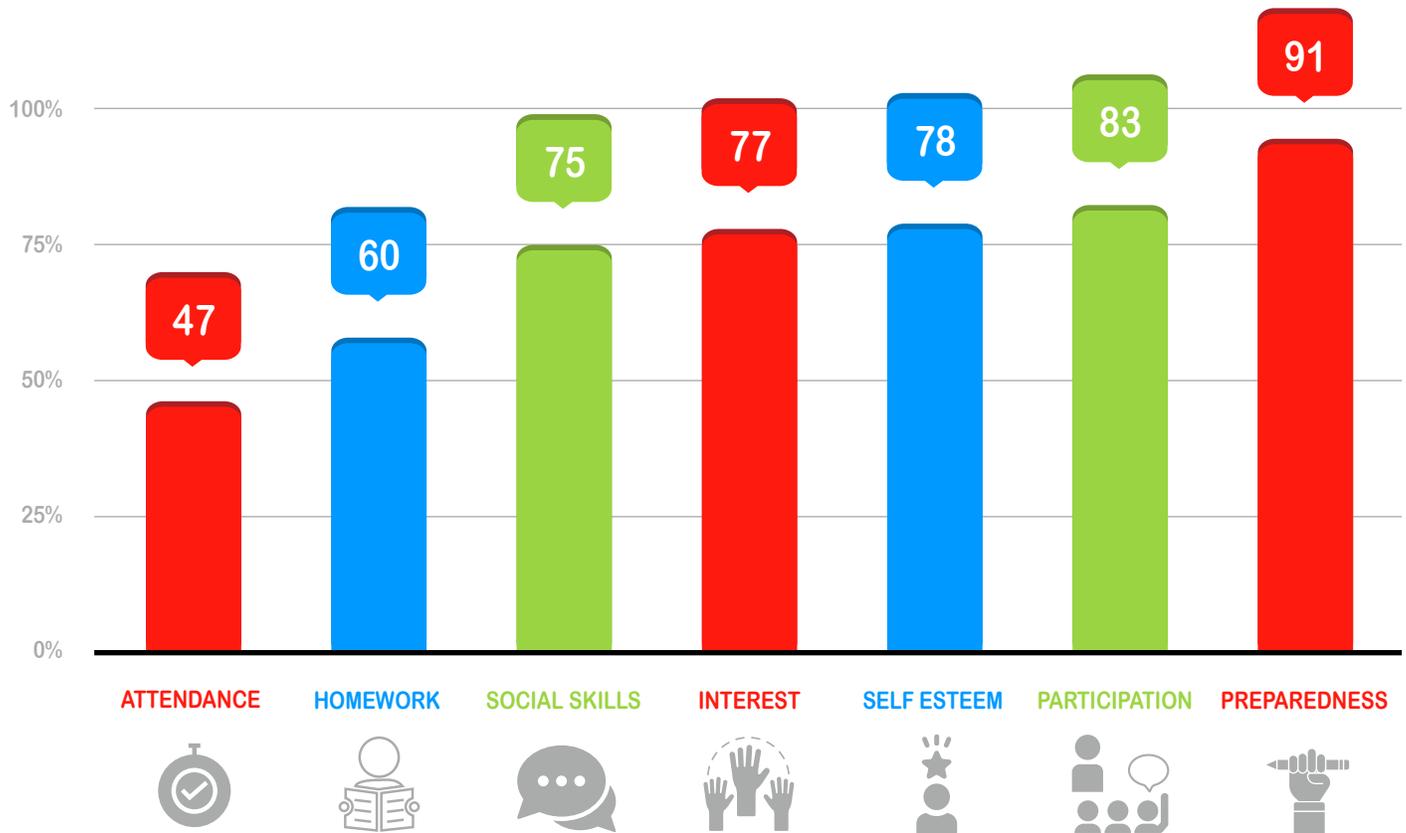
Third Grade Special Education Teacher

An extraordinary impact

For students living in poverty, access to essential supplies opens a world of opportunity for success. Our teachers reported a noticeable impact on students in **social, emotional, and academic** performance.

Positive impact observed

Percent of respondents who reported KINF supplies helped immensely or a lot with this measure



“

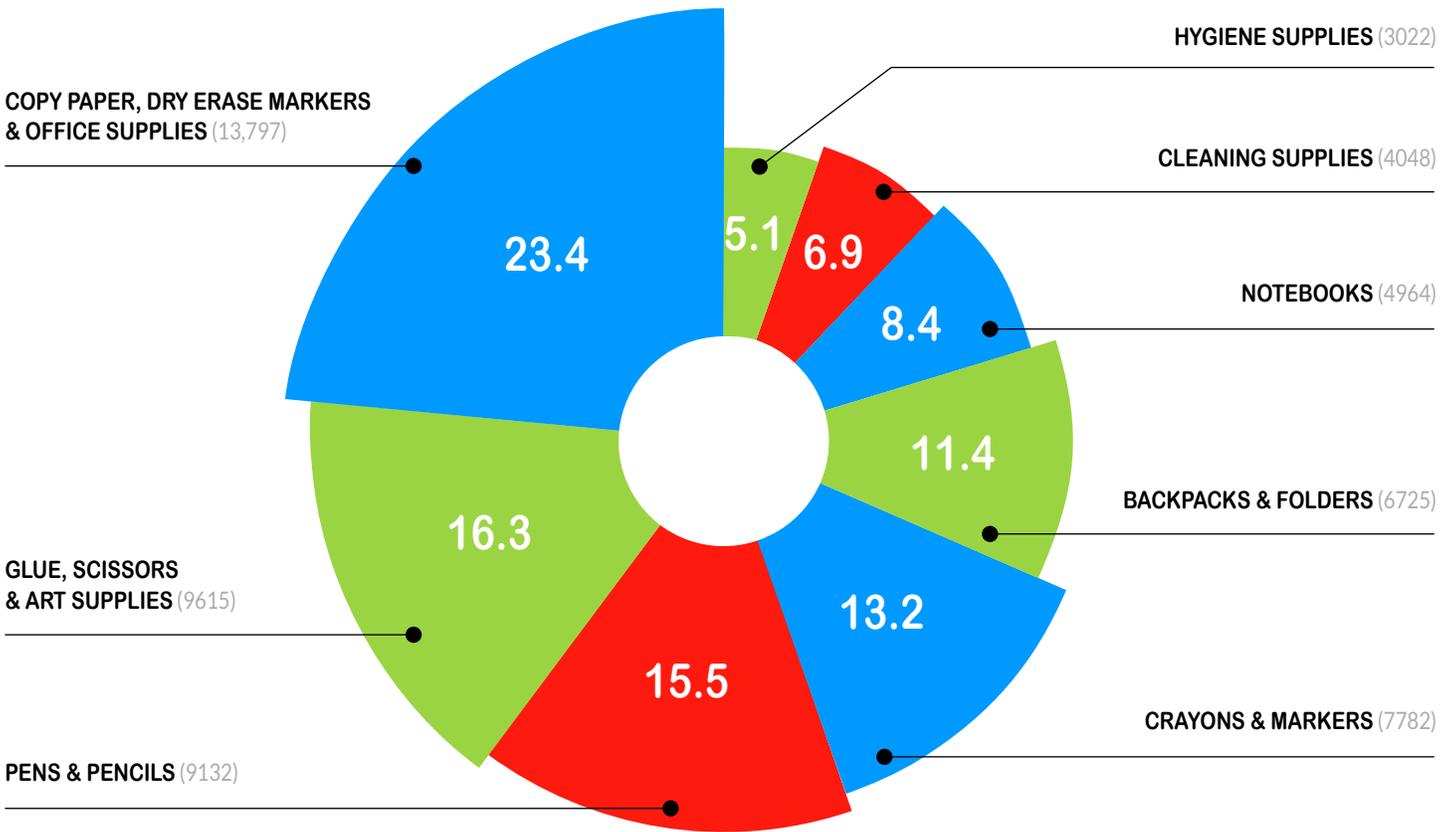
When the students have the tools they need to be successful, they start attending class regularly and take pride in the work they are completing. They can be a part of our school community!”

Tenth Grade High School Teacher

Back to basics

When asked to rank the supplies most needed in their classrooms, teachers reported a need for the basics, from pens and pencils to art supplies. Their responses help guide the products we supply in our Resource Centers.

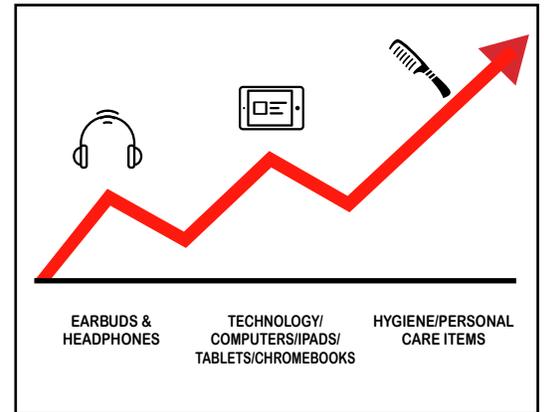
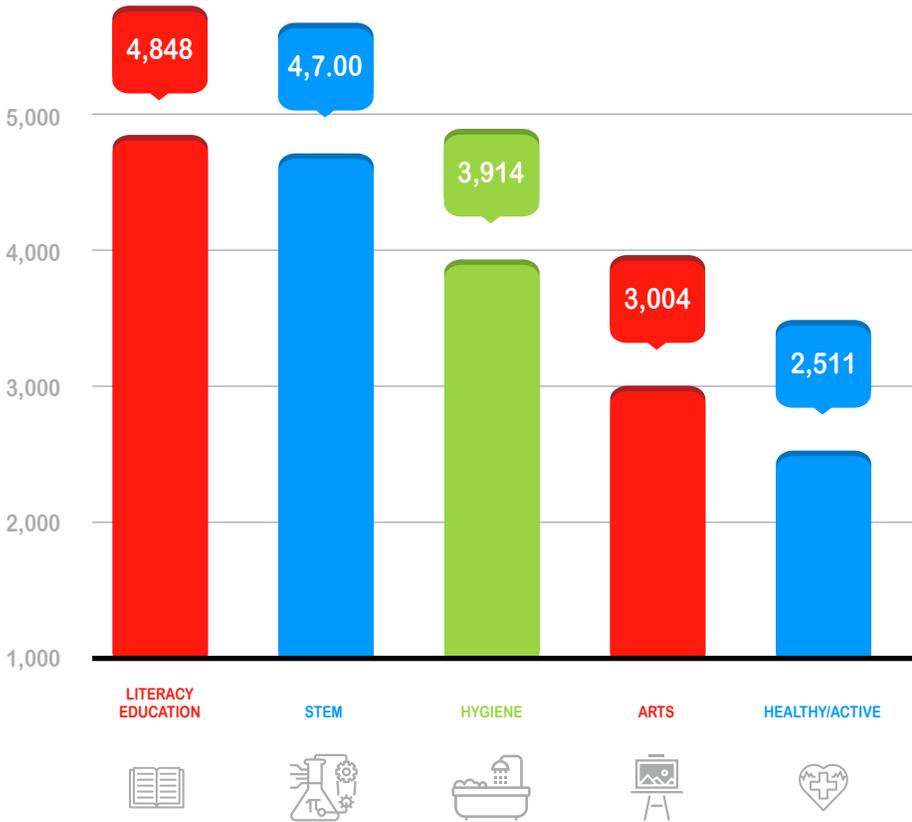
Most requested basic supplies



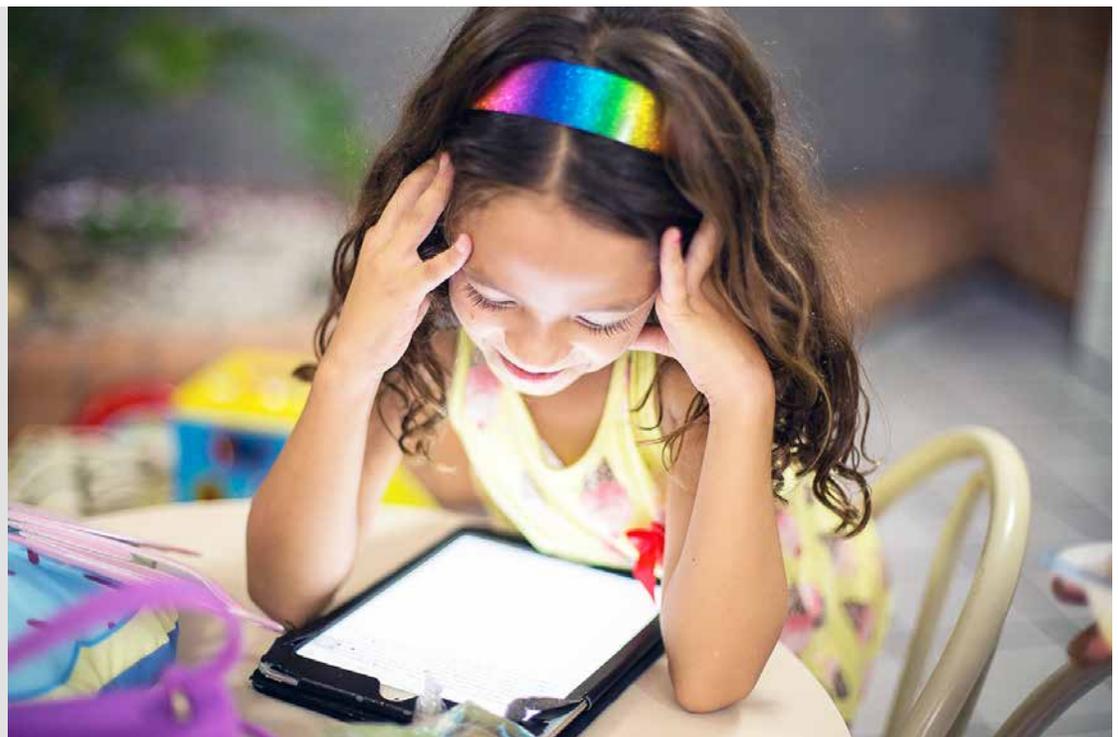
Looking ahead

While schools will always need pencils and paper, today's teachers and students need additional tools to reach their full potential. 2020 and beyond will demand a larger emphasis on technology and connectivity as schools work to deliver a quality education in the classroom and at home, for students from all cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.

When asked where they could use additional support, teachers ranked S.T.E.M and literacy tools at the top of their list. Emerging technology, audio tools, and hygiene supplies are also rising in importance.



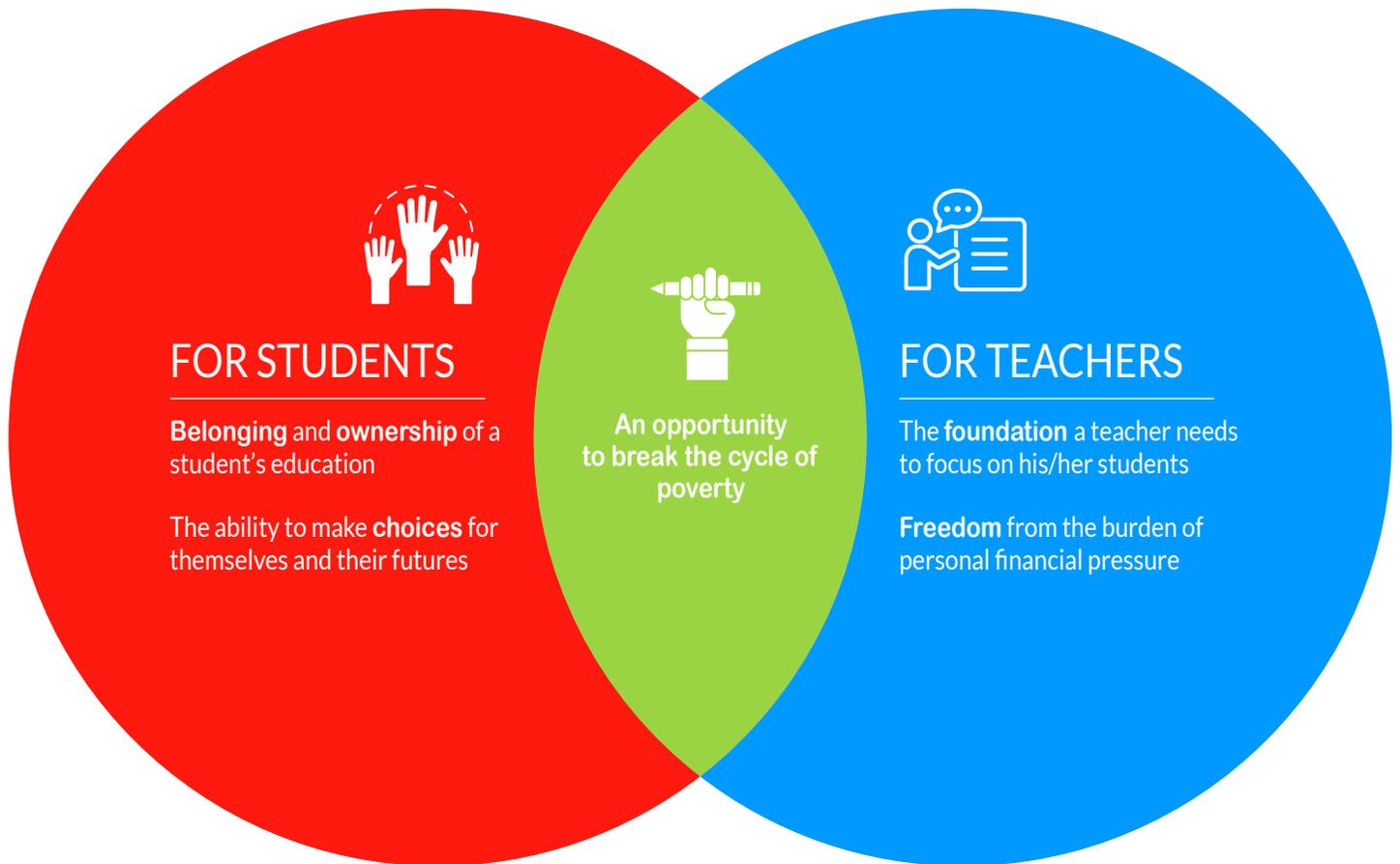
At KINF, we seek to build partnerships to close the technology gap in underserved communities. By expanding our ability to provide technology and devices to these schools, we can help ensure that all students have equitable access to a quality education, no matter what that looks like the remainder of this academic school year.



Supplies = Success

It's a simple equation. When we remove the burden of need and equip schools with the necessary resources they need, students and teachers are empowered to reach their full potential.

School supplies represent



Join us in our mission to see all children in America receive equal access to a quality education.

Education is the single most important factor in setting children up for success. Without it, students cannot achieve their full potential in the classroom and throughout their lives--and teachers remain the key to unlocking that potential.

Donations from our partners and supporters help us provide teachers with the support they need to level the education playing field for students in America's most under-resourced schools.



It's more than just a backpack.