Should school provide the school’s supplies?

Abdullah Rajab

CSEN 1020 Argument and Research

Professor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

April 18 2018

**Claim**: School supplies are useful for students and enhance their competence.

**Stated reason**: school supplies create a large number of facilities for students to learn and excel.

**Grounds**: The schools that provide school supplies are considered effective schools as they take care of children’s needs.

**Warrant**: The schools that provide school supplies to students, in a way help the country achieve its educational goals.

**Backing**: The schools that provide stationary items, books and lunch boxes to their students are better for developing better and hassle free environment.

**Introduction**:

The school supplies are useful for students as they focus more on their academic goals instead of dividing their energies towards buying books, stationary items or food. School is a place that shapes a child’s future. If better education facilities are provided, children grow in multi-dimensions and excel. Schools that provide school supplies are helpful for students as they are given equal opportunities to learn from. Students face no hindrance when all what they need like books and stationary is given to them free of cost. This way, parents are at ease too since there is no worry to bear with child’s educational expenditures. The environment friendly for learning with all basic needs promise better growth among children as they carry out their academic ventures without any hassle. Schools that develop a good number of supplies for students help in ensuring learning and competence among students (Newmann et al, 2001). Schools policies in this regard should be easier and focus on students’ comfortable study routine.

**Body**:

Schools are considered effective if the school administration is determined to provide school supplies to its students. This brings school administration closer to students’ needs and deficiencies. Students are given equal level of opportunities too thus there are no differences among them. When a school gives away school supplies, it is a step taken in maintaining balance in a society where every child enjoys equal number of benefits. This also helps in improving the school discipline towards a more balanced society (Stolp, 1994).

It is significant to note that the schools that provide school supplies to learners are forming a roadmap in building their future. The necessary items for learning encourage students to engage in meaningful activities that are helpful for their grooming and self-confidence. Schools are therefore a pillar in students’ success and upbringing. Most importantly, it helps students come out of financial burden. It helps the poor children complete their studies and come up to the level of other members of society. Education is expensive and school supplies cost a large amount that every parent/guardian has to bear with. It is reported that parents spend $603.36 (National Retail Federation).

**Discussion**:

It is estimated that more than 16 million children in USA are living in drastic financial conditions. They reach their school on the very first day without the supplies that are essential for learning. To resolve this issue, good schools establish partnerships with selected organizations and corporations nationwide so that school ready supplies program is available to all students whenever they need (School Ready Supplies Program, Kids in Need Foundation).

**School Ready Supplies Program – Working**:

The school ready supply program work under the following methodology:

“Our School Ready Supplies program is dedicated to providing those in need of school supplies with the tools necessary to be successful in the classroom. Through sponsorship, we can provide pre-assembled backpacks filled with essential school supplies or deliver bulk supplies to host backpack-building events. Our trusted program has:

* Hosted countless on-site backpack builds with employees to support local schools, strengthening teams and cooperation
* Partnered with various trade events, conferences, and national meetings to channel participants’ energy into giving back to local students by building backpacks
* Built individually customized online fundraising portals that match existing campaigns dedicated to engaging people to give back

Sponsorships are available for pre-assembled backpacks, or as bulk supplies for companies to hold hands-on team-building backpack experiences.”

(School Ready Supplies Program, Kids in Need Foundation).

It is also accepted that free school supplies help students learn not only during the academic year but also during summer holidays (Hanson, n.d.) - It is a study that Jenny Holland covers for fourth grade classroom at Hezel Valley Elementary School in Burien, Washington – many students take their school supplies home for learning as a good number of students have limited resources at home; they utilize the school supplies during their school hours and maximize the learning opportunities.

"A lot of these students don't have these supplies available to them at home; the school is the only place they [can] use them," Holland explains.”

And he explains further:

“World Vision provides Hazel Valley and other partner Highline School District schools with books and school supplies in support of the district's upcoming summer programs. End-of-the-year school supplies also encourage students to continue to practice the skills they learned throughout the year.”

Due to free school supply program, the benefits reach to students. It has been reported that:

“In June 10, thanks to a partnership between World Vision's U.S. Programs and Yoobi, a school supply brand, students in two classes received free school supply kits. This partnership helps children in low-income schools, like Eddie, age 10, learn and succeed by providing them with free school essentials.”

“Jim Peterson, World Vision's volunteer coordinator for U.S. Programs, distributed the kits to the classrooms and offered words of encouragement to the students as they neared the last day of school.

"We can't thank the partnership enough [for providing] students with materials and resources they need to support their instruction all summer long," says Casey Jeannot, principal at Hazel Valley.

Once the students in Kayce Love's fourth-grade class received their kits, they went right to work creating Father's Day cards.

"You can color, you can erase, you can sharpen your pencils and you can stick stuff together," says Anaiis, age 10. "I’m going to use everything. I want to be an artist and a teacher when I grow up."

(Hanson, n.d.)

Through initiatives like free school supplies, schools that provide supplies to their students are fulfilling their basic need for education. It is not possible for students to study, take notes, complete their work and take their exams. The schools that support initiatives like school supplies in reality help learner achieve their desire to learn and educate themselves.

**Opposing View**:

There is however a debate that to what extent, schools to provide school supplies to learners. An opposing view in this aspect is to investigate the fact that if schools ask parents to buy basic supplies like hand sanitizers, tissues or other items for classroom cupboard, would it be too much? (Murray, 2011). It is argued that schools supplies should be voluntarily and not compulsory by any means.

“Even though filling classroom supplies lists have become a fall ritual, the state Education Department has been telling districts for years that such requests should be completely voluntary.”

(Murray, 2011).

Likewise, it is also one of the points that parents should be charged by schools for

“class or organizational dues, admission fees to athletic contests, lunch, fees for external tests such as college entrance exams, yearbooks, athletic shoes, bus transportation for non-resident students, school sponsored educational trips not directly related to the curriculum, vaccinations, summer school courses or programs not part of a scheduled year-round program and caps and gowns.”

(Murray, 2011).

The question remained unanswered that in this rising poverty, to what extent, should parents be burdened to afford the education for their children. The expenses are high and restrict many parents to allow their children to pursue studies further. The need is to involve government machinery, or organizations that can provide school supplies to schools and in a way bringing much relief for parents.

**Conclusion**:

The school supplies are one of the fundamentals needs that students require to carry on with their education. The schools that provide school supplies to its students are providing help in achieving learning gaols and consequently attain competence. The need is to lessen the burden that most parents bear to educate their children. For this purpose, organizations and welfare groups should take initiates to provide school supplies to different schools nationwide. This way, students including those who are needy can study for a better and prosperous future.

Work Cited

Hanson, S. (n.d.). Free school supplies help students continue to learn during summer months. *World Vision*.

Murray, D. (2011). Should parents be asked to provide school supplies? State law says there are limits. *M Live Media Group*.

Newmann, M. F., Smith, B., Allensworth, E., Bryk, S. A. (2001). Instructional Program Coherence: What It Is and Why It Should Guide School Improvement Policy. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*. Vol. 23, No. 4; pp. 297-321.

Stolp, S (1994). Leadership for School Culture. *ERIC Digest*. Vol. 91; pp. 1-3

School Ready Supplies Program. *Kids in Need Foundation*.