

Showing Appreciation for our Teachers

According to a [recent study of U.S. public school teachers](#), 99.5% of survey respondents spent their own money on school supplies, instructional materials and/or other classroom materials last year.

Here in California where [CSE Insurance Group](#) is headquartered, years of budget cuts have dropped our per-pupil spending to [49th in the nation](#) when adjusted for cost of living considerations. To compound matters, the California State Assembly last year [passed a bill](#) that requires that all educational supplies, materials and equipment be provided to pupils free of charge.

With adequate financial relief [years away](#), our teachers routinely – and voluntarily – take money from their own pockets to buy classroom supplies for their students. How much do they spend? Well, one teacher recently told us:

“I’ve been teaching for 15 years as a Visual Art teacher. I have been fortunate to keep my art program and my job, but in the past few years the lack of budget for supplies has resulted in me spending \$1,000-\$2,000 a year on supplies for my students.”

That’s why, CSE in partnership with the [Sheriffs and You Foundation \(SAY\)](#) recently sponsored two Teacher Appreciation events in California where we gave \$200 Target gift cards to more than 200 educators to shop tax-free for classroom supplies. Thankfully, the teacher quoted above was a part of it:

“This was one of the first times, in 15 years, that I have honestly felt appreciated for ALL that teachers do. It’s a VERY difficult job and the people who do it, do it because they love it! I am so thankful to have been part of your event. I was able to stock up my class with colored pencils, markers, glue, and much more! What a great way to start the new year!!!!”

Until adequate funding becomes available for schools, it is crucial for private sector companies like CSE Insurance Group, charitable organizations, and the public to chip in to help our teachers obtain the supplies they so desperately need for their students.

Teachers: How much of your own money do you spend each year on your classroom?

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