

EDUCATION

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN ST. LOUIS

KIDS HAVING WHAT THEY NEED FOR SCHOOL AFFECTS THEIR PERFORMANCE, SELF-ESTEEM, BEHAVIOR, AND ATTENDANCE. NCJW STL STRIVES TO ENSURE THAT ALL KIDS HAVE WHAT THEY NEED TO SUCCEED IN SCHOOL, REGARDLESS OF DISTRICT OR INCOME.



NCJW STL BELIEVES THAT...

INCOME SHOULD NOT AFFECT EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY OR ACCESS.

In St. Louis, educational access is too often predicated on wealth. Some students have the privilege of attending private schools, or public schools in affluent districts, where they learn from great teachers, have access to books and technology, and feel safe among their peers. Other students attend public school in low-income districts, where a shortage of teachers often leaves subjects self-taught, books are not provided due to lack of district funding, students routinely feel physically unsafe, and the police are called on students for minor infractions. NCJW STL firmly believes that all children should have access to a positive educational experience, regardless of income or place of residence.

SCHOOL PREPAREDNESS AFFECTS SELF-ESTEEM.

When children have all the supplies they need for school, their enthusiasm about school and positive self-esteem sky-rocket. NCJW STL strives to ensure that children in the St. Louis area have everything they need to be ready for the first day of school through our **Back to School! Store**. The Back to School! Store is an annual event that outfits over 1300 local kids with all the essentials they need for school success—clothing, backpacks filled with school supplies, winter coats, shoes, personal care items, and more. NCJW STL has expanded this to a year-round effort by launching the **Kids Community Closet** program. These closets are permanent installations in 23 local schools, and stocked with clothes to meet students' emergency needs. Kids are assisted discreetly by school counselors and social workers, so that they are never without essentials they need.

PUBLIC FUNDS SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR PRIVATE EDUCATION.

NCJW STL firmly opposes the voucher system, which uses public funds to pay private school tuitions. Doing so takes dollars out of the public school system, making it impossible for public schools to better compensate teachers, provide students with resources, improve their facilities, etc. Additionally, private schools are not held to the same education standards as public schools. Furthermore, these public funds are often used to send students to private religious schools, which is a violation of the separation of religion and state.

WHAT TO DO

STAY INFORMED

Learn about local laws that might affect school funding, learning, and student safety.

GET INVOLVED

Here at NCJW STL, we have a few wonderful programs designed to help students:

Back to School! Store

Volunteer-You can volunteer to be a personal shopper for kids at the Back to School! Store. Many have called BTSS one of the best volunteer experience they have had.

Donate-The Back to School! Store is funded by grants, donations, child sponsors, and in-kind donations.

Sponsor-For \$180, you can supply a local student with everything they need to start the school year with enthusiasm and self-esteem. Your donation will subsidize clothing, a backpack filled with school supplies, winter wear, shoes, personal care items, and community resources.

Kids Community Closet

Volunteer-Each school has two volunteer liaisons who work with school personnel to stock and maintain the closet.

Donate-The Kids Community Closet program is funded by grants, donations, closet sponsors, and in-kind donations.

Sponsor-It costs \$2,000 to build and maintain a closet. \$1,200 funds the cost of building a closet and an \$800 sponsorship allows us to stock the closet for one year. Help us bring community closets to more local schools!

Learn more: ncjwstl.org

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National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis

Need help finding your reps?
www.house.mo.gov
www.senate.mo.gov

Contact Heather at
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information



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