



Beyond barcodes: Smarter inventory for K–12 schools

Save time, cut costs, and improve compliance
with CDW + InThing + Zebra RFID

Why schools struggle with inventory

The Problem: Manual inventory is holding schools back

- **Weeks wasted** on barcode scans, clipboards, and spot checks
- **Costly blind spots** leading to over-ordering, lost assets, and missed grants
- **Compliance risks** when audits take too long or reporting is incomplete
- **Today's schools** manage thousands of assets—from laptops and textbooks to AV gear and lab supplies. But outdated, line-of-sight systems can't keep up

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The Solution: RFID Made for education

With CDW + InThing + Zebra RFID, schools get:

- **95%+ accuracy** — every item, every time
- **25% lower textbook costs** — no more over-ordering
- **Audits in days, not months**
- **Real-time tracking with no line of sight needed**
- **Simple roll-out** — add RFID alongside existing barcodes

From classrooms to storerooms, staff can scan hundreds of items in seconds—even through backpacks, shelves, or cupboards. Missing items are flagged automatically, and fixed readers can secure high-value assets at doors or exits.



Where RFID makes the biggest impact?

K-12 RFID use cases

Use case	The challenge	The CDW + InThing + Zebra RFID
Chemicals and hazardous materials	Schools store chemicals across labs, art rooms, nurse's offices, and closets. Manual logs miss details, creating safety and compliance risks .	RFID tags track each container by location and age. InThing software issues alerts and creates automated compliance logs , reducing risk and ensuring safety.
IT assets (laptops, tablets, AV gear)	Thousands of devices go out each year. Manual tracking can't keep up, leading to lost assets, blind spots, and budget overruns .	RFID delivers real-time visibility . Integration with school IT systems keeps records accurate, audits faster, and losses lower.
Fixed assets (furniture, equipment)	Desks, printers, and lab gear are hard to track, leading to reporting gaps and budget issues, and missed budget accuracy.	FID provides automated inventory integration with financial systems , ensuring accurate reporting and audits.
Textbooks and school books	Manual barcode counts take weeks and often miss compliance surplus piles up and wastes budgets.	RFID scans thousands of books in seconds . InThing integrates with library systems, delivering 95%+ accuracy and up to 25% savings .
Library self-checkout	Barcode systems slow checkout and make books hard to track.	RFID kiosks enable self-service checkout of whole stacks. Security gates trigger alerts if books aren't checked out, cutting loss and staff time.
STEM learning	Inventory is seen as admin work, not a learning opportunity.	Students get hands-on with RFID and IoT, building real-world skills while schools gain better visibility.

Proof in action: What a California district achieved

Scanned 35,000 books in 3 days (vs. months)

Found 10,000 surplus books → 25% savings

Compliance secured under Williams Law

By turning inventory into a student-led project, the district not only saved money but also gave students hands-on experience with real-world tech.

Ready to see it?

Start small with a **6-week pilot**:

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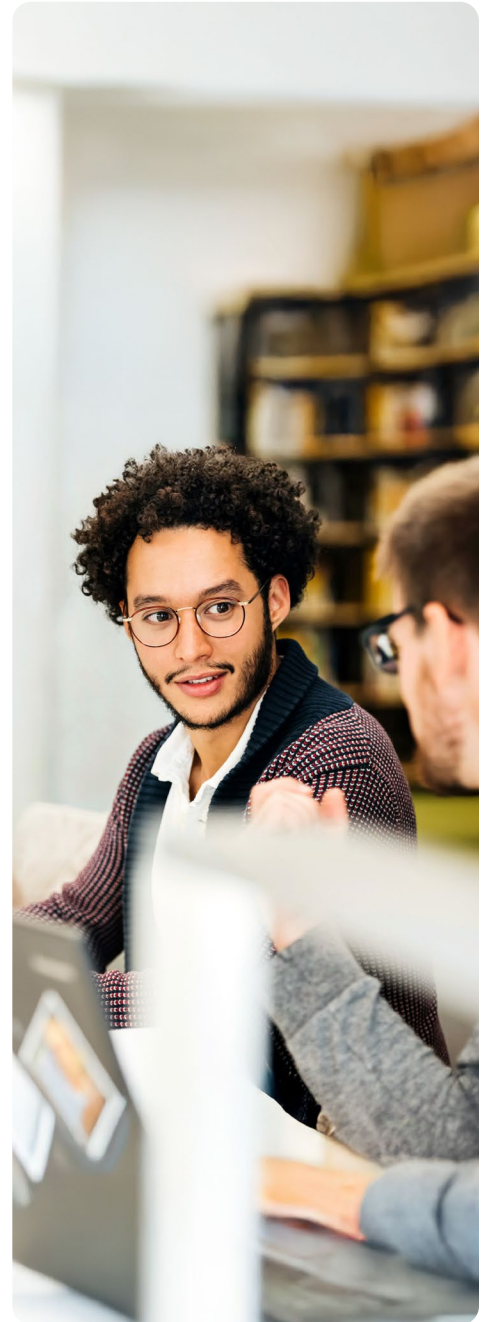
**Tag
and prep**
Identify
high-priority
assets

2

**Scan
and track**
Run real
classroom
audits

3

**Review
and results**
Get measurable
savings and
compliance
gains



→ **Book your pilot today and see how much smarter your district's inventory can be.**

