



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 But outdated, line-of-sight systems can't keep up.

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	Manual logs miss details, creating safety and compliance risks.	RFID tracks chemicals automatically and logs compliance.
IT assets	Lost laptops, inaccurate records, budget waste.	Real-time tracking, works with existing IT systems.
Fixed assets	Desks and printers are hard to track, leading to audit problems.	RFID keeps records accurate for reports and audits.
Textbooks	Barcode scans take weeks and often cause over-ordering.	RFID scans books in seconds with 95%+ accuracy and 25% savings. Works with library and asset systems.
Library	Barcode checkouts are slow and books get lost.	RFID kiosks allow fast self-checkout and prevent loss.
STEM learning	Inventory feels like admin work.	RFID turns inventory into a hands-on STEM activity for students.

Proof in action: What a California district achieved

Scanned 35,000 books in 3 days

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:

1 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.

