



Ohio's Sales Tax Holiday: Providing Tax Relief for Ohio Families

Back-to-school shopping can be tough on families, as you try to stretch every dollar as far as it can go. Clothing, books, pens, notepads ... it all really starts to add up. In the Ohio Senate, we know that Ohio's families could use some help, and we are committed easing the burdens that government adds to the mix. That is why the General Assembly has passed the Ohio Sales Tax Holiday the last three years to assist parents during the back-to-school shopping season.

When Ohio's first sales tax holiday was enacted, it was a pilot project to see how Ohio would respond to the tax-free weekend. It was a success, as Ohioans saved millions of dollars and retailers saw a significant boost in sales. We renewed the program, and Ohio families were once again able to save money while buying necessities.

In 2018, the Senate passed legislation to make the sales tax holiday permanent. During the first weekend of each August, families can take advantage of this unique tax-free weekend when purchasing select items. But the benefits don't stop there – retailers often offer additional discounts to coincide with the tax holiday weekend. Both shoppers and retailers can once again benefit from this savings opportunity.

All shoes and clothing priced less than \$75 will be exempt from state and local sales and use taxes during this period. School supplies and instructional materials priced at \$20 or less will also be tax exempt. Even online vendors will be more affordable, as they will waive local and state sales taxes on designated items during the three-day tax holiday.

Ohio's sales tax holiday is scheduled to provide optimal savings for parents, families and educators at a time when families must stretch their dollars. This temporary relief from the sales tax is meant to ease the burden for families and ensure that students have the items necessary to succeed in the classroom.

This is a win-win for Ohio's families, students, businesses and tourism. Ohioans saved millions of dollars on back-to-school items during the prior sales tax holidays, and stores saw significant boosts in statewide retail sales. Counties located along state lines fared even better. For more information about Ohio's Sales Tax Holiday, including specifics on which items qualify for savings, please visit the Ohio Department of Taxation's website at http://www.tax.ohio.gov/sales_and_use/SalesTaxHoliday.aspx.