



CHANCELLOR KLEIN, FIRST DEPUTY MAYOR HARRIS, CAROLINE KENNEDY, AND SARAH JESSICA PARKER KICK OFF FIFTH ANNUAL FUND FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS' "SHOP FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS" PROGRAM

Citywide Retail Promotion to Benefit New York City's Public School Libraries Runs From October 1-8

New York City Schools Chancellor Joel I. Klein, First Deputy Mayor Patricia Harris, The Fund for Public Schools Vice-Chair Caroline Kennedy, and actress Sarah Jessica Parker today kicked off the fifth annual "Shop for Public Schools" retail promotion. From October 1-8, more than 200 retail locations across the City – the most to ever participate in the program – will donate a portion of their sales to raise money for New York City public school libraries. Barnes and Noble and American Express are co-sponsors of this year's week-long event, which launched today at Barnes and Noble in Tribeca.

"Our goal is to provide each of the city's 1.1 million public school students with an excellent education—and Shop for Public Schools has been a key partner each step of the way," First Deputy Mayor Harris said. "I commend the retail community for their continued commitment and look forward to our best Shop for Public Schools week ever."

"The Shop for Public Schools program is helping to improve literacy at schools across the City by giving students the books and technology they need to succeed," Chancellor Klein said. "Every school deserves a top-notch library and I thank our retail partners and their customers for helping us to reach that goal."

"There are few things more important in today's world than education," said Caroline Kennedy, Vice-Chair of The Fund for Public Schools. "Shop for Public Schools is one way to help the children in our city learn to love reading, improve their research skills and pursue their dreams. Proceeds go to buy books, technology and other critical resources in our highest-needs school libraries."

"I am delighted to have the opportunity to participate in Shop for Public Schools," Sarah Jessica Parker said. "The Fund is one of my favorite charities and this is a great opportunity for all New Yorkers to get involved."

Participating retailers will be donating a portion of sales to The Fund for Public Schools' Library REACH (Revitalizing Education for Adolescents and Children) grant program. REACH is a competitive grant program to which public schools can apply for up to \$10,000 to improve their libraries.

Since 2004, The Fund has raised more than \$5 million in support of library improvements overall. Shop for Public Schools, formerly known as Shop for Class, is key to this success. More than 250 public school library renovations across the city have been supported by The Fund for Public Schools.

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About The Fund for Public Schools:

The Fund for Public Schools is dedicated to improving New York City's public schools by attracting private investment in school reform and encouraging greater involvement by all New Yorkers in the education of our children. The Fund plays a pivotal role in improving public education in New York City by strengthening the New York City Department of Education's relationship with the private sector, securing funding for critical education reform initiatives, helping businesses to create partnerships and programs that support City schools, and raising public awareness about the public schools. The Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

For more information, and a daily updated list of retailers, go to <http://shopforpublicschools.org>.

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