



Research continues to show the benefits of having the right school chair in a learning environment. Students have improved postures, improved attention levels, added comfort, better memory and attention, plus reduced fatigue. To help educators find the best option for their classroom setting, School Outfitters has created this informative Buying Guide designed to make your decision making easier.

Use the convenient size chart below to quickly determine the appropriate seat height for each grade level, beginning with the youngest learners. School chair styles are also included, describing the benefits of each design. Take note of our special School Outfitter (SO) Tips found throughout the buying guide, highlighting key take-aways to help with your purchase.

School Chair Seat Height by Grade Level

	5" - 8" Seat height	9" - 11.5" Seat height	12" - 13" Seat height	13.5 - 14" Seat height	15.5" - 16" Seat height	17.5" - 18" Seat height
Preschool (Ages 1-2)	75%	25%				
Preschool (Ages 3-5)		75%	25%			
Kindergarten			75%	25%		
Grade 1			25%	75%		
Grade 2				75%		
Grade 3				25%	75%	
Grade 4					75%	25%
Grade 5						75%
Grade 6 - Adult						100%

School Outfitters Tips



We recommend ordering the size chair that will fit at least 75% of your students.



When in doubt, order the larger size in the suggested range.



Be sure to leave a 10 to 12-inch gap between the seat and the desk or tabletop.



For students that require a custom school chair fit, measure from the bend of the knee to the floor and select the seat height that is closest to this measurement.



School chairs with nylon glides help protect floor surfaces and make moving the chair easy.



Choose smooth chair backs for easy cleaning or backs with handles for easier mobility.

School Chair Types



Stacking School Chair

The most common chair found in a classroom is a Stacking School Chair. These chairs are made from polypropylene, a thermoplastic polymer known for its durability due to its impact resistance. Available in a full line of seat heights to accommodate any classroom age, there are also several design options to choose from based primarily on preference.

[Shop Stacking School Chairs](#)



Mobile School Chair

To spark creativity in the classroom, many teachers will prefer Mobile School Chairs. Students, just like adults, benefit from moving when sitting for long periods of time. Wheels on school chairs not only promote movement but allow for quick rearrangement throughout the day to encourage greater collaboration. Depending on the style, the wheels, or casters, can lock.

[Shop Mobile School Chairs](#)



Wobble & Active Stool

Another option to spark creativity are Wobble and Active Stools. Students have the flexibility of movement while sitting by rocking in any direction. Because it has a stool design, students can actively engage with those around them simply by pivoting while sitting.

[Shop Wobble & Active Stools](#)



Rocker Chair with Cantilever Base

Chairs with a cantilever base do not have the traditional four legs. Rather, the base has an L-shape giving the user a moderate amount of movement, or rocking, while sitting. A Rocker Chair with a Cantilever Base has an attractive design and is intended to promote active learning.

[Shop Rocker Chairs with Cantilever Base](#)



School Chair with Sled Base

School chairs that move easily on carpet have sled bases. By design, sleds have two “legs” on either side that allow it to glide on the snow. This concept is applied to School Chairs with Sled Bases giving students more mobility on carpeted surfaces.

[Shop School Chairs with Sled Base](#)



Wooden School Chair

One of the more classic styles of school chairs are those made from solid wood. The most popular design is a ladderback where the seat back resembles ladder rungs. They are exceptionally sturdy and weigh a bit more than plastic chairs.

[Shop Wooden School Chairs](#)



Combo Desk & School Chair

For convenience and classroom organization, school chairs can be purchased with a desk attached. The metal frame also includes a book box secured underneath the seat to hold books and personal belongings. The seat is usually available in several colors.

[Shop Combo Desk & School Chairs](#)



Teacher Chair

The chair a teacher uses throughout the day should accommodate the needs of a busy classroom with features that ensure durability and flexibility. Popular features include wheels for mobility, swivel seats, adjustable heights to fit any desk or table and cushioned seats for added comfort.

[Shop Teacher Chairs](#)



Chair Dollies

Chair dollies enable staff to easily stack and transport school chairs to ensure cleaning efforts are thorough. For convenience, several Stacking School Chair models have a chair dolly designed to fit. For others, a universal chair dolly can be used.

[Shop Chair Dollies](#)

GREENGUARD & BIFMA Certifications



GREENGUARD Certified School Chairs

Products that are GREENGUARD Certified meet the stringent standards for low chemical emissions set by the Greenguard Environmental Institute (GEI), an industry independent organization that aims to improve indoor air quality. Products that are GREENGUARD Certified reduce people's exposure to chemicals and other pollutants, improving overall health. GREENGUARD Certification is GEI's first certification offering.



GREENGUARD Gold Certified School Chairs

GREENGUARD Gold Certification is GEI's second tier of certification. Products that are GREENGUARD Gold Certified meet an even lower level of chemical emissions plus health-based criteria for additional chemicals. GREENGUARD Gold products meet the indoor air quality needs of sensitive environments like schools, daycares and health care facilities.



BIFMA Certified School Chairs

The Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturer's Association, or BIFMA, certification is a voluntary standard that a product has met stringent third-party sustainability requirements. This certification ensures the product is durable, has longevity and promotes a healthy work environment.