2026 School & Office Session

Education & EPPS Programs

ECRM's educational sessions provide EPPS attendees with the opportunity to learn from thought leaders and category experts on a variety of topics aimed at their professional development. These sessions include presentations, moderated panel discussions, special events, workshops, and roundtable discussions focused on category insights and trends, as well as hands-on workshops to help buyers and sellers enhance the effectiveness of their meetings during an EPPS.

Monday, August 3, 2026

Store Tours

180 minutes

Join us for a unique self-guided experience exploring local and regional retail gems. This is your chance to discover standout stores that bring fresh ideas and inspiration to the School & Office category. Transportation will be provided to the following stores:

- Barnes & Noble
- Office Depot
- Five Below
- Target
- Toy World

Opportunity Amid Adversity: How Office & School Supplies Are Navigating Today's Consumer Economy



40 minutes

As students head back to the classroom, families face mounting economic pressure from higher prices at the shelf, an uncertain employment outlook, and rising energy costs. These headwinds are pushing shoppers to focus intensely on value, reshaping which brands they choose, where they buy, and when they shop. Join Circana's Industry Advisor, Ben Arnold, for a look at the consumer, retail, and product trends driving change across today's Office and School Supply market.

Ben Arnold covers market trends in the technology and office products industries, with a focus on innovation and the evolution of retail. A veteran analyst, he has led research initiatives for more than 20 years for manufacturers, retailers, and media companies, specializing in shifting consumer behaviors. His insights have been widely featured in outlets including The Wall Street Journal, CNBC, and NBC's TODAY Show. He is a frequent speaker at leading industry events such as CES, Inspired Home Show, and OPI Global Forum.

Ben Arnold, Senior Director, Industry Advisor
Circana