

Form 5500 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). <p style="text-align: center;">▶ Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.</p>	OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089 2019 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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Part I	Annual Report Identification Information
For calendar plan year 2019 or fiscal plan year beginning <u>01/01/2019</u> and ending <u>12/31/2019</u>	
A	This return/report is for: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> ☐ a multiemployer plan </div> <div> ☐ a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must attach a list of participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.) </div> </div>
	☒ a single-employer plan <div style="margin-left: 100px;">☐ a DFE (specify) _____</div>
B	This return/report is: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> ☐ the first return/report ☐ an amended return/report </div> <div> ☐ the final return/report ☐ a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months) </div> </div>
C	If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. ▶ ☐
D	Check box if filing under: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> ☒ Form 5558 ☐ special extension (enter description) </div> <div> ☐ automatic extension </div> <div> ☐ the DFVC program </div> </div>

Part II	Basic Plan Information —enter all requested information		
1a	Name of plan <u>STAPLES, INC. EMPLOYEES' 401(K) SAVINGS PLAN</u>	1b	Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ <u>002</u>
		1c	Effective date of plan <u>05/01/1989</u>
2a	Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan) Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box) City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions) <u>STAPLES, INC.</u> <u>P.O. BOX 9274</u> <u>500 STAPLES DR.</u> <u>FRAMINGHAM, MA 01702-9274</u>	2b	Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>04-2896127</u>
		2c	Plan Sponsor's telephone number <u>508-253-5000</u>
		2d	Business code (see instructions) <u>453210</u>

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/15/2020	MELANIE MCGRATH
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.

Form 5500 (2019)
v. 190130

3a Plan administrator's name and address ☒ Same as Plan Sponsor	3b Administrator's EIN 3c Administrator's telephone number <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 40px;"></div>
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: a Sponsor's name c Plan Name	4b EIN 4d PN
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5 25838
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d). a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits..... c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits. f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e g Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	<div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 20px;"></div> 6a(1) 15116 6a(2) 14947 6b 447 6c 6655 6d 22049 6e 148 6f 22197 6g 17900 6h 91
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	7

8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

2E 2F 2G 2J 2K 2S 2T

b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☒ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor	9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☒ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor
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10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

a Pension Schedules

- (1)** ☒ **R** (Retirement Plan Information)
- (2)** ☐ **MB** (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- (3)** ☐ **SB** (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary

b General Schedules

- (1)** ☒ **H** (Financial Information)
- (2)** ☐ **I** (Financial Information – Small Plan)
- (3)** ☒ 1 **A** (Insurance Information)
- (4)** ☒ **C** (Service Provider Information)
- (5)** ☒ **D** (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
- (6)** ☐ **G** (Financial Transaction Schedules)

Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2019 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2019 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code _____

<div>SCHEDULE A (Form 5500) <div>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</div><div>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</div><div>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</div></div>	<div>Insurance Information</div> <div>This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).</div> <div>▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.</div> <div>▶ Insurance companies are required to provide the information pursuant to ERISA section 103(a)(2).</div>	<div>OMB No. 1210-0110</div> <div>2019</div> <div>This Form is Open to Public Inspection</div>
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For calendar plan year 2019 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2019 and ending 12/31/2019	
A Name of plan STAPLES, INC. EMPLOYEES' 401(K) SAVINGS PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 STAPLES, INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 04-2896127

Part I	Information Concerning Insurance Contract Coverage, Fees, and Commissions Provide information for each contract on a separate Schedule A. Individual contracts grouped as a unit in Parts II and III can be reported on a single Schedule A.
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1 Coverage Information:

(a) Name of insurance carrier GREAT-WEST LIFE & ANNUITY INSURANCE COMPANY

(b) EIN	(c) NAIC code	(d) Contract or identification number	(e) Approximate number of persons covered at end of policy or contract year	Policy or contract year	
				(f) From	(g) To
84-0467907	68322	150552-01	3106	01/01/2019	12/31/2019

2 Insurance fee and commission information. Enter the total fees and total commissions paid. List in line 3 the agents, brokers, and other persons in descending order of the amount paid.	
(a) Total amount of commissions paid	(b) Total amount of fees paid

3 Persons receiving commissions and fees. (Complete as many entries as needed to report all persons).
(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	
(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid			

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

Part II Investment and Annuity Contract Information

Where individual contracts are provided, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

4 Current value of plan's interest under this contract in the general account at year end **4** 109215982**5** Current value of plan's interest under this contract in separate accounts at year end **5** 0**6** Contracts With Allocated Funds:**a** State the basis of premium rates ▶**b** Premiums paid to carrier **6b****c** Premiums due but unpaid at the end of the year **6c****d** If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, enter amount. **6d**
Specify nature of costs ▶**e** Type of contract: (1) ☐ individual policies (2) ☐ group deferred annuity(3) ☐ other (specify) ▶**f** If contract purchased, in whole or in part, to distribute benefits from a terminating plan, check here ▶ ☐**7** Contracts With Unallocated Funds (Do not include portions of these contracts maintained in separate accounts)**a** Type of contract: (1) ☐ deposit administration (2) ☐ immediate participation guarantee
(3) ☐ guaranteed investment (4) ☒ other ▶ GROUP ANNUITY CONTRACT**b** Balance at the end of the previous year **7b** 113061142**c** Additions: (1) Contributions deposited during the year **7c(1)** 5559854
(2) Dividends and credits **7c(2)** 0
(3) Interest credited during the year **7c(3)** 2522721
(4) Transferred from separate account **7c(4)** 15501454
(5) Other (specify below) **7c(5)** 1332380

▶ LOAN PAYMENTS

(6) Total additions **7c(6)** 24916409**d** Total of balance and additions (add lines **7b** and **7c(6)**) **7d** 137977551**e** Deductions:(1) Disbursed from fund to pay benefits or purchase annuities during year **7e(1)** 16956633
(2) Administration charge made by carrier **7e(2)** 868514
(3) Transferred to separate account **7e(3)** 10936422
(4) Other (specify below) **7e(4)**(5) Total deductions **7e(5)** 28761569**f** Balance at the end of the current year (subtract line **7e(5)** from line **7d**) **7f** 109215982

Part III Welfare Benefit Contract Information

If more than one contract covers the same group of employees of the same employer(s) or members of the same employee organizations(s), the information may be combined for reporting purposes if such contracts are experience-rated as a unit. Where contracts cover individual employees, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

8 Benefit and contract type (check all applicable boxes)

- a** ☐ Health (other than dental or vision)
 b ☐ Dental
 c ☐ Vision
 d ☐ Life insurance
e ☐ Temporary disability (accident and sickness)
 f ☐ Long-term disability
 g ☐ Supplemental unemployment
 h ☐ Prescription drug
i ☐ Stop loss (large deductible)
 j ☐ HMO contract
 k ☐ PPO contract
 l ☐ Indemnity contract
m ☐ Other (specify) ▶

9 Experience-rated contracts:

a Premiums: (1) Amount received.....	9a(1)		
(2) Increase (decrease) in amount due but unpaid.....	9a(2)		
(3) Increase (decrease) in unearned premium reserve	9a(3)		
(4) Earned ((1) + (2) - (3)).....		9a(4)	0
b Benefit charges (1) Claims paid.....	9b(1)		
(2) Increase (decrease) in claim reserves.....	9b(2)		
(3) Incurred claims (add (1) and (2))		9b(3)	0
(4) Claims charged		9b(4)	
c Remainder of premium: (1) Retention charges (on an accrual basis) --			
(A) Commissions	9c(1)(A)		
(B) Administrative service or other fees.....	9c(1)(B)		
(C) Other specific acquisition costs	9c(1)(C)		
(D) Other expenses.....	9c(1)(D)		
(E) Taxes	9c(1)(E)		
(F) Charges for risks or other contingencies.....	9c(1)(F)		
(G) Other retention charges	9c(1)(G)		
(H) Total retention.....		9c(1)(H)	0
(2) Dividends or retroactive rate refunds. (These amounts were ☐ paid in cash, or ☐ credited.).....		9c(2)	
d Status of policyholder reserves at end of year: (1) Amount held to provide benefits after retirement		9d(1)	
(2) Claim reserves		9d(2)	
(3) Other reserves.....		9d(3)	
e Dividends or retroactive rate refunds due. (Do not include amount entered in line 9c(2).)		9e	

10 Nonexperience-rated contracts:

a Total premiums or subscription charges paid to carrier	10a	
b If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, other than reported in Part I, line 2 above, report amount.....	10b	

Specify nature of costs.

Part IV Provision of Information

11 Did the insurance company fail to provide any information necessary to complete Schedule A? ☐ Yes ☒ No

12 If the answer to line 11 is "Yes," specify the information not provided. ▶

SCHEDULE C (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Service Provider Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110
		2019
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2019 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2019 and ending 12/31/2019	
A Name of plan STAPLES, INC. EMPLOYEES' 401(K) SAVINGS PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 STAPLES, INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 04-2896127

Part I	Service Provider Information (see instructions)
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You must complete this Part, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information required for **each person** who received, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of monetary value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or the person's position with the plan during the plan year. If a person received **only** eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures, you are required to answer line 1 but are not required to include that person when completing the remainder of this Part.

1 Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

- a** Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether you are excluding a person from the remainder of this Part because they received only eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures (see instructions for definitions and conditions)..... ☒ Yes ☐ No
- b** If you answered line 1a "Yes," enter the name and EIN or address of each person providing the required disclosures for the service providers who received only eligible indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed (see instructions).

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation
GREAT-WEST LIFE & ANNUITY INC. CO.
84-0467907

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

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2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

GREAT-WEST LIFE & ANNUITY INSURANCE

84-0467907

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
15 37 50 64	NONE	793248	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3. If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received \$1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information

4 Provide, to the extent possible, the following information for each service provider who failed or refused to provide the information necessary to complete this Schedule.

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

Part III Termination Information on Accountants and Enrolled Actuaries (see instructions)
(complete as many entries as needed)

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

SCHEDULE D (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small>	DFE/Participating Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ► File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2019 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2019 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2019 and ending 12/31/2019

A Name of plan <u>STAPLES, INC. EMPLOYEES' 401(K) SAVINGS PLAN</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN)	<u>002</u>
C Plan or DFE sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>STAPLES, INC.</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>04-2896127</u>	

Part I	Information on interests in MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs (to be completed by plans and DFEs) (Complete as many entries as needed to report all interests in DFEs)
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT 2005 TRUST</u>		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>T. ROWE PRICE TRUST COMPANY</u>		
c EIN-PN <u>61-6434302-001</u>	d Entity code <u>C</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>0</u>
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT 2010 TRUST</u>		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>T. ROWE PRICE TRUST COMPANY</u>		
c EIN-PN <u>32-6199795-001</u>	d Entity code <u>C</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>0</u>
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT 2015 TRUST</u>		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>T. ROWE PRICE TRUST COMPANY</u>		
c EIN-PN <u>35-6941654-001</u>	d Entity code <u>C</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>0</u>
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT 2020 TRUST</u>		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>T. ROWE PRICE TRUST COMPANY</u>		
c EIN-PN <u>36-7594871-001</u>	d Entity code <u>C</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>0</u>
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT 2025 TRUST</u>		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>T. ROWE PRICE TRUST COMPANY</u>		
c EIN-PN <u>37-6495447-001</u>	d Entity code <u>C</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>0</u>
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT 2030 TRUST</u>		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>T. ROWE PRICE TRUST COMPANY</u>		
c EIN-PN <u>38-7010946-001</u>	d Entity code <u>C</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>0</u>
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT 2035 TRUST</u>		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>T. ROWE PRICE TRUST COMPANY</u>		
c EIN-PN <u>36-7595013-001</u>	d Entity code <u>C</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>0</u>

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT 2040 TRUST		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): T. ROWE PRICE TRUST COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 35-6941729-001	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 0
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT 2045 TRUST		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): T. ROWE PRICE TRUST COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 32-6199848-001	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 0
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT 2050 TRUST		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): T. ROWE PRICE TRUST COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 30-6303214-001	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 0
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT 2055 TRUST		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): T. ROWE PRICE TRUST COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 35-6941728-001	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 0
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT 2060 TRUST		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): T. ROWE PRICE TRUST COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 47-1088316-001	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 0
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: BLACKROCK RUSSELL 1000 GROWTH F		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): BLACKROCK INSTITUTIONAL TRUST CO.		
c EIN-PN 94-3330725-001	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 132254707
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: BLACKROCK RUSSELL 1000 VALUE F		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): BLACKROCK INSTITUTIONAL TRUST CO.		
c EIN-PN 94-3330726-001	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 97209163
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT 2005 TR-B		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): T. ROWE PRICE TRUST COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 61-6434302-001	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 4072232
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT 2010 TR-B		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): T. ROWE PRICE TRUST COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 32-6199795-001	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 5450302
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT 2015 TR-B		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): T. ROWE PRICE TRUST COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 35-6941654-001	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 25502203

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT 2020 TR-B

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): T. ROWE PRICE TRUST COMPANY

c EIN-PN 36-7594871-001	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 45203267
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT 2025 TR-B

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): T. ROWE PRICE TRUST COMPANY

c EIN-PN 37-6495447-001	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 102003146
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT 2030 TR-B

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): T. ROWE PRICE TRUST COMPANY

c EIN-PN 38-7010946-001	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 93246767
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT 2035 TR-B

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): T. ROWE PRICE TRUST COMPANY

c EIN-PN 36-7595013-001	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 94479031
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT 2040 TR-B

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): T. ROWE PRICE TRUST COMPANY

c EIN-PN 35-6941729-001	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 72457205
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT 2045 TR-B

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): T. ROWE PRICE TRUST COMPANY

c EIN-PN 32-6199848-001	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 68637561
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT 2050 TR-B

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): T. ROWE PRICE TRUST COMPANY

c EIN-PN 30-6303214-001	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 34369502
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT 2055 TR-B

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): T. ROWE PRICE TRUST COMPANY

c EIN-PN 35-6941728-001	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 17836863
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT 2060 TR-B

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): T. ROWE PRICE TRUST COMPANY

c EIN-PN 47-1088316-001	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 3893588
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
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Part II Information on Participating Plans (to be completed by DFEs)

(Complete as many entries as needed to report all participating plans)

a Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
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plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
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plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	Financial Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ► File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2019 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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For calendar plan year 2019 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2019 and ending 12/31/2019		
A Name of plan STAPLES, INC. EMPLOYEES' 401(K) SAVINGS PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ►	002
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 STAPLES, INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 04-2896127	

Part I	Asset and Liability Statement
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1 Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. **Round off amounts to the nearest dollar.** MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.

Assets		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a	0	0
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions.....	1b(1)	17419168	17444188
(2) Participant contributions.....	1b(2)	2407	119404
(3) Other.....	1b(3)	0	0
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit).....	1c(1)	0	0
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)	0	0
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)	0	0
(B) All other.....	1c(3)(B)	0	0
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)	0	0
(B) Common.....	1c(4)(B)	0	0
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)	0	0
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property).....	1c(6)	0	0
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)	0	0
(8) Participant loans.....	1c(8)	18985410	18896779
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)	662094970	796615537
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)	0	0
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)	0	0
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities.....	1c(12)	0	0
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds).....	1c(13)	379282866	436684469
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts).....	1c(14)	113061142	109215982
(15) Other.....	1c(15)	0	0

1d Employer-related investments:

		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)	0	0
(2) Employer real property	1d(2)	0	0
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e	0	0
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	1190845963	1378976359

Liabilities

g Benefit claims payable	1g	0	0
h Operating payables	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness	1i	0	0
j Other liabilities	1j	0	0
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j)	1k	0	0

Net Assets

l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	1190845963	1378976359
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Part II Income and Expense Statement

2 Plan income, expenses, and changes in net assets for the year. Include all income and expenses of the plan, including any trust(s) or separately maintained fund(s) and any payments/receipts to/from insurance carriers. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 2a, 2b(1)(E), 2e, 2f, and 2g.

Income

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a Contributions:			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: (A) Employers	2a(1)(A)	17469720	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	58247479	
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	13951266	
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)	0	89668465
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)	0	
(B) U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B)	0	
(C) Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C)	0	
(D) Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D)	0	
(E) Participant loans	2b(1)(E)	1103210	
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)	2522635	
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		3625845
(2) Dividends: (A) Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)	0	
(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)	0	
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)	13025189	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		13025189
(3) Rents	2b(3)		0
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: (A) Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)	0	
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)	0	
(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result	2b(4)(C)		0
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: (A) Real estate	2b(5)(A)	0	
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)	0	
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)		0

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts	2b(6)		165656171
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts	2b(7)		0
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts	2b(8)		0
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities	2b(9)		0
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		78106040
c Other income	2c		263494
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		350345204

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	161007780	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits	2e(2)	0	
(3) Other	2e(3)	0	
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines 2e(1) through (3)	2e(4)		161007780
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		1133
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		674462
h Interest expense	2h		0
i Administrative expenses: (1) Professional fees	2i(1)	4650	
(2) Contract administrator fees	2i(2)	0	
(3) Investment advisory and management fees	2i(3)	0	
(4) Other	2i(4)	793248	
(5) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (4)	2i(5)		797898
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		162481273

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		187863931
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan	2l(1)		266465
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		

Part III Accountant's Opinion

3 Complete lines 3a through 3c if the opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is attached to this Form 5500. Complete line 3d if an opinion is not attached.

a The attached opinion of an independent qualified public accountant for this plan is (see instructions):

(1) ☐ Unmodified (2) ☐ Qualified (3) ☒ Disclaimer (4) ☐ Adverse

b Did the accountant perform a limited scope audit pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and/or 103-12(d)? ☒ Yes ☐ No

c Enter the name and EIN of the accountant (or accounting firm) below:

(1) Name: ERNST & YOUNG LLP

(2) EIN: 34-6565596

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** because:

(1) ☐ This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, or MTIA. (2) ☐ It will be attached to the next Form 5500 pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-50.

Part IV Compliance Questions

4 CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l.

During the plan year:

a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.)

b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)

	Yes	No	Amount
4a		X	
4b		X	

	Yes	No	Amount
c Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)			
4c		X	
d Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.).....			
4d		X	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	X		1000000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?		X	
4f		X	
g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?.....			
4g		X	
h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?.....			
4h		X	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	X		
4i	X		
j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)			
4j		X	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?			
4k		X	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?.....			
4l		X	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)			
4m		X	
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.			
4n			

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year?..... ☐ Yes ☒ No
If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year _____.

5b If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)

5b(1) Name of plan(s)	5b(2) EIN(s)	5b(3) PN(s)

5c If the plan is a defined benefit plan, is it covered under the PBGC insurance program (See ERISA section 4021.)? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not determined
If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year _____. (See instructions.)

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Retirement Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2019 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2019 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2019 and ending 12/31/2019

A Name of plan <u>STAPLES, INC. EMPLOYEES' 401(K) SAVINGS PLAN</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ <u>002</u>
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>STAPLES, INC.</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>04-2896127</u>

Part I	Distributions
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All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.

1 Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions	1	<u>0</u>
2 Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits): EIN(s): <u>84-1455663</u>		
Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.		
3 Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year	3	

Part II	Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part.)
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4 Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A
If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.			
5 If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. Date: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.			
6 a Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived)	6a		
b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year	6b		
c Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount)	6c		
If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.			
7 Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A
8 If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A

Part III	Amendments
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9 If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box	☐ Increase	☐ Decrease	☐ Both	☐ No
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Part IV	ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.
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10 Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan?	☐ Yes	☐ No
11 a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock?	☐ Yes	☐ No
b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.)	☐ Yes	☐ No
12 Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market?	☐ Yes	☐ No

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.

Schedule R (Form 5500) 2019
v. 190130

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year (measured in dollars). See instructions. *Complete as many entries as needed to report all applicable employers.*

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

- 14** Enter the number of participants on whose behalf no contributions were made by an employer as an employer of the participant for:

a The current year

b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year

c The second preceding plan year

14a**14b****14c**

- 15** Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to:

a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year

b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year

15a**15b**

- 16** Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:

a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year

b If line 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers

16a**16b**

- 17** If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment. ☐

Part VI Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

- 18** If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment ☐

- 19** If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) through (c)

- a** Enter the percentage of plan assets held as:

Stock: _____% Investment-Grade Debt: _____% High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Estate: _____% Other: _____%

- b** Provide the average duration of the combined investment-grade and high-yield debt:

☐ 0-3 years ☐ 3-6 years ☐ 6-9 years ☐ 9-12 years ☐ 12-15 years ☐ 15-18 years ☐ 18-21 years ☐ 21 years or more

- c** What duration measure was used to calculate line 19(b)?

☐ Effective duration ☐ Macaulay duration ☐ Modified duration ☐ Other (specify): _____

- 20 PBGC missed contribution reporting requirements.** If this is a multiemployer plan or a single-employer plan that is not covered by PBGC, skip line 20.

- a** Is the amount of unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40 greater than zero? ☐ Yes ☐ No

- b** If line 20a is "Yes," has PBGC been notified as required by ERISA sections 4043(c)(5) and/or 303(k)(4)? Check the applicable box:

☐ Yes.

☐ No. Reporting was waived under 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) because contributions equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution were made by the 30th day after the due date.

☐ No. The 30-day period referenced in 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) has not yet ended, and the sponsor intends to make a contribution equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution by the 30th day after the due date.

☐ No. Other. Provide explanation _____

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AND SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE

Staples, Inc. Employees' 401(k) Savings Plan
Years Ended December 31, 2019 and 2018
With Report of Independent Auditors

Staples, Inc. Employees' 401(k) Savings Plan
Financial Statements and Supplemental Schedule
Years Ended December 31, 2019 and 2018

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Report of Independent Auditors

The Plan Administrator and Participants

Staples, Inc. Employees' 401(k) Savings Plan

Report on the Financial Statements

We were engaged to audit the accompanying financial statements of Staples, Inc. Employees' 401(k) Savings Plan, which comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2019 and 2018, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles; this includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on conducting the audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States. Because of the matter described in the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion paragraph, however, we were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion.

Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion

As permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the plan administrator instructed us not to perform, and we did not perform, any auditing procedures with respect to the certified investment information described in Note 3, except for comparing such information with the related information included in the financial statements. We have been informed by the plan administrator that the entity that certified the investment information meets the requirements of 29 CFR 2520.103-8. The plan administrator has obtained certifications as of December 31, 2019 and 2018, and for the years then ended, stating that the investment information provided to the plan administrator is complete and accurate.

Disclaimer of Opinion on Financial Statements

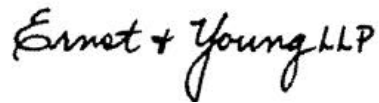
Because of the significance of the matter described in the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion paragraph, we have not been able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on these financial statements.

Disclaimer of Opinion on Supplemental Schedule

The accompanying supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2019, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. Because of the significance of the matter described in the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion paragraph, we do not express an opinion on the supplemental schedule referred to above.

Report on Compliance of Form and Content with Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations

The form and content of the information included in the financial statements and supplemental schedule, other than that derived from the certified investment information, have been audited by us in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and, in our opinion, are presented in compliance with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ernst & Young LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

October 15, 2020

Staples, Inc. Employees' 401(k) Savings Plan
Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits
Years Ended December 31, 2019 and 2018

	December 31,	
	2019	2018
Assets		
Investments, at fair value	\$ 1,233,300,006	\$ 1,041,377,836
Fully benefit-responsive investment contracts, at contract value	109,215,982	113,061,142
Receivables:		
Participant notes receivable	18,896,778	18,985,410
Employer contributions	17,444,188	17,419,168
Employee contributions	119,405	2,407
	<u>36,460,371</u>	<u>36,406,985</u>
Net assets available for benefits	<u><u>\$ 1,378,976,359</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,190,845,963</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

Staples, Inc. Employees' 401(k) Savings Plan
Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits
Years Ended December 31, 2019 and 2018

	Year Ended December 31,	
	2019	2018
Additions		
Investment income:		
Interest and dividend income	\$ 15,547,910	\$ 24,134,928
Net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments	243,762,211	(100,378,709)
	259,310,121	(76,243,781)
Interest income on participant notes receivable	1,183,420	1,090,329
Contributions:		
Employee contributions	58,248,799	57,922,431
Employer contributions	17,451,126	15,959,727
Employee rollovers	14,455,700	9,834,060
	90,155,625	83,716,218
Other income	142,535	1,935,152
Transfer in	266,465	—
Total additions	351,058,166	10,497,918
Deductions		
Benefit payments	162,129,872	164,194,068
Administrative expenses	797,898	1,038,566
Transfer out	—	242,347,906
Total deductions	162,927,770	407,580,540
Net increase (decrease)	188,130,396	(397,082,622)
Net assets available for benefits		
Beginning of year	1,190,845,963	1,587,928,585
End of year	<u>\$ 1,378,976,359</u>	<u>\$ 1,190,845,963</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

Staples, Inc. Employees' 401(k) Savings Plan
Notes to Financial Statements
Years Ended December 31, 2019 and 2018

1. Description of the Plan

The following description of the Staples, Inc. Employees' 401(k) Savings Plan (the "Plan") provides only general information about the Plan's provisions. Participants and all others should refer to the Plan Document for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan under Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code (the "Code"), covering employees of Staples, Inc. (the "Company"). The Plan is subject to the applicable provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA").

Great-West Trust Company, LLC. ("Great-West Life" or the "Trustee") served as Trustee of the Plan during 2019 and 2018, and Great-West Life & Annuity Company provided the trust and recordkeeping services for the Plan.

Eligibility

All employees ("associates") of the Company, except for those covered by a collective bargaining agreement (the terms of which provide for participation in the Plan), are eligible to participate in the Plan. Leased employees are specifically excluded from participation in the Plan.

Full-time associates may begin making contributions to the Plan on the first day of the month after he or she has completed 60 days of service from their date of hire and once they have reached age 21.

Full-time eligible associates that have failed to complete the requisite 60 consecutive days of employment during the twelve-month period following the date of hire may begin making pre-tax contributions, as of the first day of the month following the later of the one-year anniversary date; or the date following the attainment of age 21.

Part-time associates may begin making contributions to the Plan on the first day of the month after they have completed one year of service from their date of hire and 1,000 hours of service. If the associate does not complete 1,000 hours of service in their first year of employment, he or she will be eligible for the Plan when they complete 1,000 hours of service in a single plan year. In addition, the associate must be at least 21 years of age.

Employee Contributions

All non-highly compensated participants may contribute from 1% up to 100% of their eligible compensation on a pre- or post-tax (Roth) basis, within limits prescribed by Section 401(k) of the Code. All highly compensated participants may contribute amounts as described and limited in the Plan Document. Participants' contributions are recorded each pay period when the Company makes payroll deductions from participants' wages. Participants may also contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified defined benefit or defined contribution plans. The Plan provides for auto-enrollments for eligible employees who have completed three years of service with a deferral amount of 1% of compensation as pretax contribution. For employees who are auto-enrolled, the deferral amount is

Staples, Inc. Employees' 401(k) Savings Plan
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
Years Ended December 31, 2019 and 2018

automatically increased 1% annually until the total deferral amount reaches 10% of compensation, or until the employee updates the deferral amount manually.

Company Contributions

The Company matches 50% of employee contributions, not to exceed 6% of the participant's compensation. The Company's matching contributions are normally made annually at the end of each Plan year.

Transfers In / Out

Transfers into the Plan during 2019 were immaterial.

On January 1, 2018, the Plan transferred \$242 million of assets and participant loans to create a new plan for Staples U.S. Retail associates.

Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contribution and the Company's contribution plus any investment earnings and losses, realized and unrealized, which is net of expenses less any benefit payments. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's account, subject to vesting restrictions.

Vesting

Participants are immediately 100% vested in their contributions, any rollover contributions, and actual earnings thereon. Vesting in the Company matching contributions, plus actual earnings thereon, is based on the length of vesting service over a period of three vesting years, as further defined in the Plan.

Forfeited Amounts

Forfeited amounts (as defined in the Plan Document) are used to reduce future Company contributions and administrative expenses, as also defined in the Plan Document. Forfeitures available to reduce future Company contributions at December 31, 2019 and 2018 amounted to \$1,507,715 and \$1,725,946, respectively. During 2019 and 2018, the total forfeitures used to offset employer contributions and administrative expenses amounted to \$362,338 and \$341,411, respectively.

Benefit Payments

Benefits are payable in a lump sum upon retirement or normal retirement age, death, separation from service, reasons of proven hardship, or attainment of age 59 1/2. In any event, payment of benefits must commence when the participant reaches age 70 1/2, unless elected otherwise. Participants may also have distributions from rollovers of prior qualified plans at any time.

Staples, Inc. Employees' 401(k) Savings Plan
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
Years Ended December 31, 2019 and 2018

Participant Notes Receivable

Participants may borrow from their fund accounts a minimum of \$1,000, up to a maximum equal to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50% of their vested participant account balance, comprised of employee contributions, their respective earnings or losses and rollover monies. Loan terms range from one to five years, or up to ten years for the purchase of a principal residence. The notes receivable are secured by the vested balance in the participant's account and bear interest at a rate consistent with local prevailing rates as determined by the Plan. All notes receivable are subject to the principal repayment terms and interest rate guidelines set forth in the Plan Document.

Termination Provision

Although the Company has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company reserves the right to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of termination of the Plan, participants become fully vested in all accounts and the assets of the Plan and shall be distributed to the participants in proportion to their respective account balances. The Company shall not be liable to participants for benefits other than those which can be provided by the Plan's net assets.

Administrative Expenses

Recordkeeping and most administrative fees are paid by the Plan. Certain other plan expenses are paid by the Company and are excluded from these financial statements.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

Valuations of Investments and Income Recognition

Investments held by the Plan are stated at fair value, except fully benefit responsive investment contracts. Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date (an exit price). See Note 4 for further discussion of fair value measurements.

Shares of mutual funds are valued at quoted market prices, which represent the net asset values of shares held by the Plan at year-end. Securities traded on a national securities exchange are valued at the last reported sales price on the last business day of the plan year.

The Great-West Life Stable Value Option is a group annuity contract fully backed by the assets of Great-West Life. This contract is reported at contract value. Contract value is the relevant measurement attributable to fully benefit-responsive investment contracts, because contract value is the amount participants would receive if they were to initiate permitted transactions under the terms of the Plan. The

Staples, Inc. Employees' 401(k) Savings Plan
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
Years Ended December 31, 2019 and 2018

contract value represents contributions plus earnings, less participant withdrawals and administrative expenses.

Collective trust funds are valued using the Net Asset Value ("NAV") published by the issuer.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net (depreciation) appreciation includes the Plan's gains and losses on the investments bought and sold, as well as held, during the year.

Payment of Benefits

Benefit payments to the participants are recorded upon distribution.

Participant Notes Receivable

Participant notes receivable are valued at their outstanding principal balances, plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income on participant notes receivable is recorded when it is earned. Related fees, if any, are recorded as administrative expenses and are expensed when they are incurred. No allowance for credit losses has been recorded as of December 31, 2019 or 2018. If a participant ceases to make loan repayments and the plan administrator deems the participant loan to be a distribution, the participant loan balance is reduced and a benefit payment is recorded.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires the Plan's management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements, accompanying notes and supplemental schedule. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

3. Investments

Certain information related to investments and notes receivable from participants disclosed in the accompanying financial statements and supplemental schedule, including investments held and notes receivable from participants at December 31, 2019 and 2018, and net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments, interest, dividends and interest income on notes receivable from participants for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018, was obtained or derived from information provided to the plan administrator and certified as complete and accurate by the Trustee of the Plan, for 2019 and 2018.

4. Fair Value Measurements

Fair value is defined under ASC 820 as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date (i.e., an exit price). To measure fair value, a hierarchy has been established that requires an entity to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. As such, the hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities (Level 1) and the

Staples, Inc. Employees' 401(k) Savings Plan
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
Years Ended December 31, 2019 and 2018

lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy in ASC 820 are described below:

Level 1 - Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets that are accessible to the reporting entity at the measurement date for identical assets and liabilities.

Level 2 - Inputs other than quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities that are observable either directly or indirectly for substantially the full term of the asset or liability. Level 2 inputs include the following:

- quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets
- quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active
- observable inputs other than quoted prices that are used in the valuation of the asset or liability (e.g., interest rate and yield curve quotes at commonly quoted intervals)
- inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means

Level 3 - Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability (i.e., supported by little or no market activity). Level 3 inputs include management's own assumptions about the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability (including assumptions about risk).

The level in the fair value hierarchy within which the fair value measurement is classified is determined based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety.

The following table sets forth, by level within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's investments carried at fair value as of December 31, 2019 and 2018:

December 31, 2019				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Mutual funds	\$ 436,684,469	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 436,684,469
Collective trust funds	796,615,537	—	—	796,615,537
	<u>\$ 1,233,300,006</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 1,233,300,006</u>
December 31, 2018				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Mutual funds	\$ 379,282,865	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 379,282,865
Collective trust funds	662,094,971	—	—	662,094,971
	<u>\$ 1,041,377,836</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 1,041,377,836</u>

Staples, Inc. Employees' 401(k) Savings Plan
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
Years Ended December 31, 2019 and 2018

5. Fully Benefit-Responsive Investment Contract

The Plan holds a traditional investment contract, The Great-West Life Stable Value Option, that meets the fully benefit-responsive investment contract criteria and therefore, is reported at contract value. Contract value is the relevant measure for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts, because this is the amount received by participants if they were to initiate permitted transactions under the terms of the Plan. Contract value represents contributions made under each contract, plus earnings, less participant withdrawals, and administrative expenses.

The following table sets forth the balance of the investment contract held by the Plan:

	December 31,	
	2019	2018
Fully benefit-responsive investment contract	\$ 109,215,982	\$ 113,061,142

The contract issuer is contractually obligated to repay the principal and interest at a specific interest rate that is guaranteed by the Plan. The crediting rate is based on a formula established by the contract issuer, but may not be less than zero. The crediting rate is reviewed on a quarterly basis.

There are certain events that might limit the ability of the Plan to transact at contract value with the contract issuer. Examples of such events include: the Plan's failure to qualify under Section 401(a) of the Code, premature termination of the contracts by the Plan, Plan termination or merger, bankruptcy of the plan sponsor and changes to the Plan's prohibition on competing investment options. Plan management noted no events that are probable of occurring as of December 31, 2019.

In addition, the following events allow the issuer to terminate the contracts with the Plan and settle at an amount different from contract value: a violation of the Plan's investment guidelines, a breach of material obligation under the contract, or a material misrepresentation.

6. Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan and its participants invest in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, market volatility, and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term, and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the financial statements.

Staples, Inc. Employees' 401(k) Savings Plan
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
Years Ended December 31, 2019 and 2018

7. Income Tax Status

The Plan has received a determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service dated March 13, 2014 stating that the Plan is qualified under Section 401(a) of the Code and, therefore, the related trust is tax-exempt. Subsequent to the receipt of the determination letter, the Plan was amended and restated. Once qualified, the Plan is required to operate in conformity with the Code to maintain its qualified status. The plan administrator believes that the Plan has been designed to comply with, and is operating in accordance with, the applicable requirements of the Code and, therefore, believes the Plan is qualified and the related trust is tax-exempt. The plan administrator has indicated that it will take the necessary steps, if any, to ensure the operations of the Plan remain in compliance with the Code.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States require plan management to evaluate uncertain tax positions taken by the Plan. The financial statement effects of a tax position are recognized when the position is more likely than not, based on the technical merits, to be sustained upon examination by the IRS. The plan administrator has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plan, and has concluded that as of December 31, 2019, there are no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

8. Reconciliation of Financial Statements to Form 5500

The following is a reconciliation of net decrease in net assets available for benefits per the financial statements to the amount per Form 5500 for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018:

	Year Ended December 31,	
	2019	2018
Net decrease per financial statements	\$ 188,130,396	\$ (397,082,622)
Add: Prior year contribution receivable	—	972
Add: Transfers Out	—	242,347,906
Less: Transfers In	(266,465)	—
Net decrease per Form 5500	<u>\$ 187,863,931</u>	<u>\$ (154,733,744)</u>

9. Subsequent Events

Management evaluated subsequent events for the Plan through October 15, 2020, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

In March 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law. The Plan has elected to implement certain provisions of the CARES Act that are available to tax qualified retirement plans and their participants. These provisions include, among other things, permitting special COVID-19 related distributions, deferring payments on certain Plan loans for up to one year and suspending required minimum distributions for 2020.

Supplemental Schedule

Staples, Inc. Employees' 401(k) Savings Plan
 EIN #04-2896127 Plan #002
 Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)
 December 31, 2019

Identity of Issuer, Borrower, Lessor or Similar Party	Description of Investments	Current Value
Mutual Funds		
Vanguard Strategic Equity Investment Fund	2,587,080 shares	\$ 86,511,969
BNY Mellon Global Fixed Income	83,562 shares	1,838,357
Dodge & Cox Income Fund	3,961,255 shares	55,576,404
Fidelity 500 Index Fund	1,392,727 shares	156,013,313
PIMCO Income Institutional	1,145,938 shares	13,797,099
Vanguard Inflation-Protected	228,967 shares	5,925,671
American EuroPacific Growth	1,032,457 shares	57,353,009
Goldman Sachs Small Cap Fund	800,067 shares	43,779,666
MFS International Value	349,439 shares	15,888,981
Collective Trust Funds		
Blackrock Russell 1000 Growth Fund	7,800,176 shares	132,254,707
Blackrock Russell 1000 Value Fund	7,486,320 shares	97,209,163
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2005 Advisor	246,354 shares	4,072,232
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2010 Advisor	314,138 shares	5,450,302
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2015 Advisor	1,371,824 shares	25,502,203
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2020 Advisor	2,269,240 shares	45,203,267
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2025 Advisor	4,822,844 shares	102,003,146
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2030 Advisor	4,188,983 shares	93,246,767
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2035 Advisor	4,090,001 shares	94,479,031
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2040 Advisor	3,057,266 shares	72,457,205
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2045 Advisor	2,877,885 shares	68,637,561
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2050 Advisor	1,441,674 shares	34,369,502
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2055 Advisor	748,505 shares	17,836,863
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2060 Advisor	254,317 shares	3,893,588
		\$ 1,233,300,006
Great-West Life Stable Value Option ¹	Varying maturities with interest rates of 1.55% - 6.00%	\$ 109,215,982
Participant notes receivable ¹	Varying maturities with interest rates of 3.25% - 10.50%	\$ 18,896,778
Total		<u>\$ 1,361,412,766</u>

¹Indicates party-in-interest to the Plan.

Staples, Inc. Employees' 401(k) Savings Plan
 EIN #04-2896127 Plan #002
 Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)
 December 31, 2019

Identity of Issuer, Borrower, Lessor or Similar Party	Description of Investments	Current Value
Mutual Funds		
Vanguard Strategic Equity Investment Fund	2,587,080 shares	\$ 86,511,969
BNY Mellon Global Fixed Income	83,562 shares	1,838,357
Dodge & Cox Income Fund	3,961,255 shares	55,576,404
Fidelity 500 Index Fund	1,392,727 shares	156,013,313
PIMCO Income Institutional	1,145,938 shares	13,797,099
Vanguard Inflation-Protected	228,967 shares	5,925,671
American EuroPacific Growth	1,032,457 shares	57,353,009
Goldman Sachs Small Cap Fund	800,067 shares	43,779,666
MFS International Value	349,439 shares	15,888,981
Collective Trust Funds		
Blackrock Russell 1000 Growth Fund	7,800,176 shares	132,254,707
Blackrock Russell 1000 Value Fund	7,486,320 shares	97,209,163
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2005 Advisor	246,354 shares	4,072,232
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2010 Advisor	314,138 shares	5,450,302
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2015 Advisor	1,371,824 shares	25,502,203
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2020 Advisor	2,269,240 shares	45,203,267
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2025 Advisor	4,822,844 shares	102,003,146
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2030 Advisor	4,188,983 shares	93,246,767
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2035 Advisor	4,090,001 shares	94,479,031
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2040 Advisor	3,057,266 shares	72,457,205
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2045 Advisor	2,877,885 shares	68,637,561
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2050 Advisor	1,441,674 shares	34,369,502
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2055 Advisor	748,505 shares	17,836,863
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2060 Advisor	254,317 shares	3,893,588
		<u>\$ 1,233,300,006</u>
Great-West Life Stable Value Option ¹	Varying maturities with interest rates of 1.55% - 6.00%	\$ 109,215,982
Participant notes receivable ¹	Varying maturities with interest rates of 3.25% - 10.50%	\$ 18,896,778
Total		<u><u>\$ 1,361,412,766</u></u>

¹Indicates party-in-interest to the Plan.