Our Mission
Engage the public in public schools by giving people a simple, accountable, and personal way to address educational inequity

Our Vision
A nation where children in every community have the tools and experiences needed for an excellent education
You ask.
Teachers create project requests for resources their students need to learn. Each project is carefully vetted.
Donors choose.
Anyone can choose a project to support. When a project is funded, our team purchases the materials and sends them to the classroom.
Students learn.
The teacher who posted the funded project sends photos, a thank-you letter, and a cost report to donors. Donors giving $50+ also receive handwritten student thank-yous.
Impact to Date

Dollars raised
$575,000,000+

Projects funded
978,000+

Students helped
24,000,000+

Schools participating
66,000+

Teachers with projects funded
375,000+

Supporters
2,800,000+

Our current impact to date is always available at donorschoose.org/impact
When I had my first project funded, it was indescribable. **I wish someone had told me how easy it was,** how beneficial it would be for my students, and that people DO want to help our students and our schools.

—Danielle 2nd grade, Pennsylvania

Folks and foundations come out of the woodwork and see to it that your students get what they need. **This still feels magical to me.**

—Dave High school humanities, Michigan

I’m always the most excited when I see my kids react to receiving new materials The way their eyes light up—*like it’s Christmas*—is absolutely amazing.

—Sydney 2nd grade, Florida
DonorsChoose.org has received the highest possible Charity Navigator rating (for sound fiscal management, accountability, and transparency) over each of the last 7 years, an honor reached by only 2% of the organizations ranked.
A flat fee of $30 is applied to each project in order to cover fulfillment labor and materials.

The total project cost also includes a 15% suggested donation to cover expenses such as administration, teacher outreach, project support for never-before-funded teachers, and maintenance and build-out of the DonorsChoose.org website. Citizen donors may opt out of the suggested donation—though few of them do—while partners leave it intact.
Create an Account
How to Create an Account

2. Click the “Get Started” button.
3. Complete the sign-up process. (This only takes 10-15 minutes.)

When signing up, you’ll need to verify that you are a public school teacher hired by the district and that you spend at least 75% of your time working directly with students.

If you ever have questions about eligibility, check out our help center and contact us.
1. If you can’t find your school, try any alternate versions of your school name and make sure your zip code is correct.

2. Use a personal email if you can. School email systems sometimes block necessary DonorsChoose.org correspondence.
Brainstorm Your Project

What does your classroom need? Think of the resources that would improve your students’ learning environment and experience.

What funding is available? Search our current funding opportunities for project ideas.

What have your fellow teachers done? Search fully-funded projects in your state, grade level, or subject area.
Steps to Posting a Project

1. Sign in to your teacher account
2. Click the “Create a Project” button
3. Follow the instructions to complete the five-step submission process:
   a. Part 1: Hi
   b. Part 2: Who
   c. Part 3: What
   d. Part 4: Why
   e. Part 5: Review
Choose your project type. First-time users can start by posting a materials or class visitor request for up to $2000. (Projects under $400 have the highest likelihood of success.)

The more projects you get funded, the more expensive your requests can be.
Part 2: Who | Tell Us About Your Students

Donors love to read about what makes your students special. These details help your potential supporters understand the full impact of their donations.

About your students

Tell prospective donors who your students are and why they're special.

Age group

Which grade level(s) will benefit from this project?

Select all

Pre-K Kindergarten 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th

Number of students
Part 3: What | What does your classroom need?

Choose your materials and add them to your cart. This is just like online shopping; each vendor has a slightly different platform and user experience.

Not sure which vendor has your materials? Check our list of commonly requested items for suggestions.

Go shopping

What do you need for your classroom?

Supplies  Class Trip  Visitor(s)

This is just like online shopping! Click a link to one of the sites below to shop through our vendor directory.

Where to find commonly requested items

Keep in mind: your shopping budget is limited to $2,000.00 for your first project. Your budget will increase after you've completed your first thank you package.
Part 4: Why | Why is this Project Important?

Make your project stand out with a catchy title. Then, tell the story of your classroom. A strong narrative will make donors feel connected to you, your students, and the positive impact the completed project will have.

Project details

Make your project stand out from the crowd.

Project title

Make it exciting and Capitalize It Like a Book Title.

* See some good examples *

About your project

How will donations to this project make a difference with your students?
Review your project draft carefully and make any final edits before submitting.

Once submitted, allow 2-3 business days for the project to appear on the site.
Reach Your Project Goal
Tips for Reaching Your Project Goal

• Use DonorsChoose.org Resources including Partner Funding Opportunities
• Leverage your social network
• Activate your community
Reach Your Project Goal: DonorsChoose.org Resources

- Make your teacher page compelling, complete with a photo and blurb about your students.
- Customize your teacher page URL to give it a unique twist and add it to your email signatures.
- Frequently check our list of Funding Opportunities to see what funds are available to you. (More on these later!)
Reach Your Project Goal: Social Networking

• Email 5-10 family and friends for support in a direct, personal way. Don’t forget to include your teacher page URL.

• Post 1-2 well-crafted updates about your project on social media or your blog, and include your teacher page URL.

• Sign up for Facebook Automatic Updates.
Reach Your Project Goal: Activate Your Community

- Throw a donor party for friends and acquaintances.
- Engage your administration, PTA/PTO, or ask your students’ parents to spread the word about your project.
- Create your own shareable items, such as t-shirts, business cards, or flyers, to hand out at school events and local businesses.
- Write a column about your classroom for a local newspaper or reach out to your local TV station.
- Brainstorm with your colleagues about ways to band together to reach out to your community.
In addition to our dedicated citizen-donor base, we partner with foundations and corporations to bring you funding.

Our partners are dedicated to helping you complete successful projects. Visit our Partner Funding Opportunities page to discover the options that are available for your project.

Common partnership opportunity types include:

1. Match Offers
2. Promo Codes
3. Innovation Challenges
A **Double Your Impact** match offer is a way for a corporation or foundation to match individual donations for projects that meet certain criteria. Your donors can see their donations double, dollar-for-dollar, to help you bring your project to life.

An **Almost Home** match offer brings classroom projects meeting partner’s specified criteria down to under $100 to go. The Almost Home offer will only be activated and the funding applied if the remaining dollars have been contributed by citizen philanthropists before the grant runs out or the project expires.
Partner Funding: Promo Codes

**Promo Codes** match citizen donations dollar-for-dollar. The code is a phrase that anyone can enter to activate the match. There are often specific criteria for which projects are matched, limits on the overall funds available, as well as the amount matched per donor. Check our [Partner Funding Opportunities](http://example.com) page for more information.
Innovation Challenges encourage teachers to post their most innovative project ideas. They are typically structured in three phases:

1. Teachers submit innovative project ideas.
2. DonorsChoose.org finds the most creative projects.
3. Other teachers are encouraged to use the project idea in their own classrooms.
We’re so excited to work with you to bring essential resources to your students! If you have a question or aren’t sure what to do next, please ask for a helping hand:

- Visit our Help Center to see frequently asked questions or search for the topic you need.
- Drop us a line through our online contact form to get in touch with our Customer Relations team. They’ll write back via email within a couple of days.
- Ask a colleague familiar with our site for advice. Our teacher community is 270,000-strong!
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