

A photograph of a blue table with various classroom supplies. In the foreground, a light green bucket is filled with colorful crayons. To the left, a pink basket contains red rings and a glue stick. In the background, a green plastic bin is visible, and a white object lies on the table. A white rectangular box containing text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Your Guide to Success



DonorsChoose.org

Support a classroom. Build a future.



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About DonorsChoose.org

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+



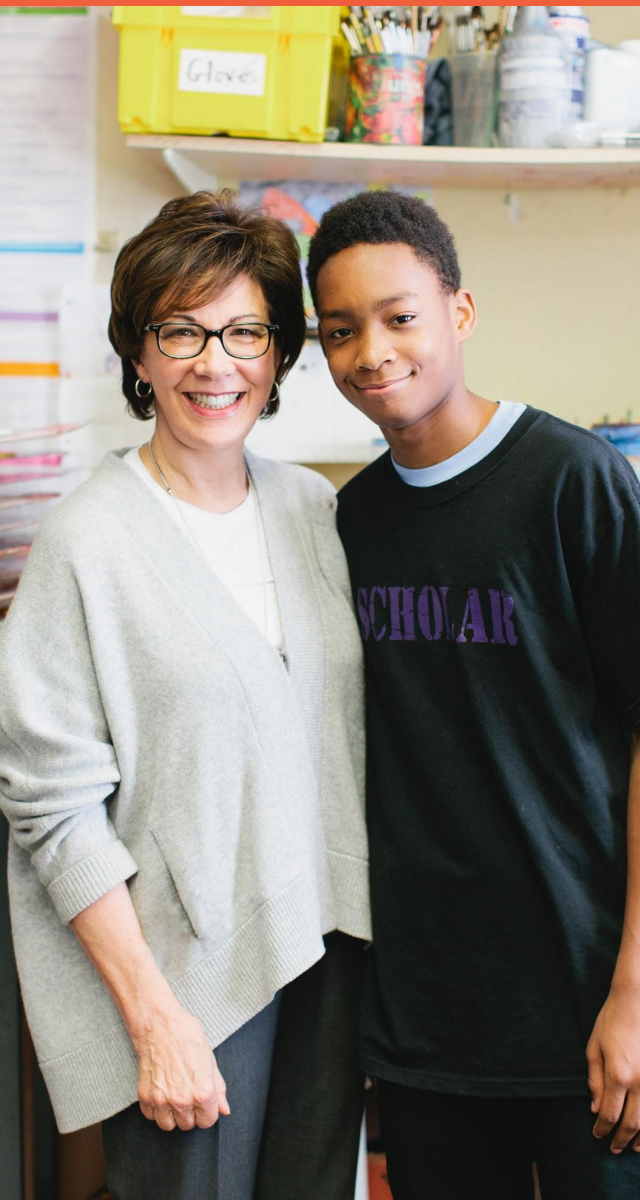
Supporters

2,800,000+

Our current impact to date is always available
at donorschoose.org/impact



What Teachers Say



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*

A Trustworthy Partner



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.



How DonorsChoose.org Keeps the Lights On



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



1. Go to www.donorschoose.org/teachers.
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](#).

Tips for Successful Account Set-up



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.



Post a Project

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

Part 1: Hi | Choose the Project Type

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.

The screenshot shows a 'Welcome' modal window with a progress bar at the top containing five steps: HI (checked), WHO, WHAT, WHY, and REVIEW. The modal title is 'Welcome' and the subtitle is 'What type of project would you like to create?'. Below the subtitle are three buttons: 'Standard' (highlighted in blue), 'Student-led', and 'Teacher Development'. A paragraph of text follows: 'Start here to request classroom materials or experiences for your students. You'll create a project for supplies, a class trip, or a visitor.' Below this is a light blue box with the heading 'NEED INSPIRATION?' and two links: 'View some A+ projects' and 'Current match offers'. At the bottom of the modal is a large green button labeled 'Let's go!'. Below the modal, at the bottom of the page, is a link: 'Here for an innovation challenge?'.

HI WHO WHAT WHY REVIEW

Welcome

What type of project would you like to create?

Standard Student-led Teacher Development

Start here to request classroom materials or experiences for your students. You'll create a project for supplies, a class trip, or a visitor.

NEED INSPIRATION?

[View some A+ projects](#) • [Current match offers](#)

Let's go!

[Here for an innovation challenge?](#)

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.

HI

WHO

WHAT

WHY

REVIEW

✓

?

×

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.

HI

WHO

WHAT

WHY

REVIEW

?

X

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.

HI

WHO

WHAT

WHY

REVIEW

?

X

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](#) ★

2 words minimum

About your project

How will donations to this project make a difference with your

Part 5: Review | Edit Your Post

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

The screenshot shows the 'REVIEW' step of a project submission process. At the top, a progress bar indicates the steps: HI (checked), WHO, WHAT, WHY, and REVIEW (current step). Below this, a yellow banner with a question mark icon contains the text 'Not so fast...' and 'Please fix the ⚠ red flags below before submitting your project.' Below the banner, three links are visible: 'Project page', 'Search results', and 'Mobile devices'. The main content area shows a project titled 'Hands on Geometry' with a description: 'My students need 3D geometric solids that include cones, pyramids, cylinders and cubes.' Below this is a section titled 'My Students' with a paragraph: 'We are done with the first week of school! Over the summer a few classrooms, including ours, received "new" used desks that easily allow students to sit next to each other. Partners are great! We are also transitioning to new Common Core textbooks that students can take notes and do homework in.' Each section has an 'Edit' button to its right. At the bottom right, there is a blue circular button with a white plus sign.

HI WHO WHAT WHY REVIEW

Not so fast...

Please fix the ⚠ red flags below before submitting your project.

Project page Search results Mobile devices

Hands on Geometry

My students need 3D geometric solids that include cones, pyramids, cylinders and cubes.

My Students

We are done with the first week of school! Over the summer a few classrooms, including ours, received "new" used desks that easily allow students to sit next to each other. Partners are great! We are also transitioning to new Common Core textbooks that students can take notes and do homework in.

Half of my geometry students are in 8th grade meaning



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.



Available Funding



Types of Funding Available

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

Partner Funding: Match Offers



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](#) page for more information.

Partner Funding: Innovation Challenges



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.



Need Help?

Need Help?



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!

A high-angle photograph of a woman and four children sitting on a large, colorful rug with a grid pattern in shades of orange, green, blue, and purple. The woman, wearing a beige sweater and pink pants, is kneeling and pointing at a card. The children, dressed in casual clothing like hoodies and jeans, are sitting around her, looking at the cards. Several cards with bird illustrations are scattered on the rug; one card clearly shows a blue bird and is labeled 'Green Jay'.

Kristina Joye Lyles

Senior Partnerships Manager