

Dear teachers,

We are so grateful for your service and all the ways you go above and beyond to engage students in the exciting world of learning. The district is committed to providing you with the materials you need for your classroom, and for several years, **Donors Choose** has provided an additional avenue to obtain extra resources. Donors Choose remains the only district-approved crowdfunding platform.

We are excited to launch the **Donors Choose District Partnership Program**, a new and improved partnership strategy to maximize funding for our schools. Over 11,000 public school districts across the nation have been funded through Donors Choose. Yet only 250 of these districts participate in the District Partnership Program, through which approximately 70% of projects are funded. It's important to note that most of these funders have no connection to the teachers or schools they fund.

To date, **1,235** DMPS projects have been uploaded to Donors Choose, raising over **\$583,000** across 60 schools. Over **4,040** donors have contributed, 46% of whom are from out of state.

District Partnership Program benefits include:

- ✦ A district [landing page](#) that houses all DMPS projects in one place, providing greater visibility for funders
- ✦ Advanced notification of funding opportunities from partners, including matching opportunities
- ✦ A simplified process to upload a project, no longer requiring the internal approval form step
- ✦ Automated controls and reports

To take advantage of this ongoing funding opportunity, complete these easy steps:

1. **CREATE A PROJECT IDEA** that complements district curriculum and priorities and will boost engagement and learning in your classroom. (When possible, break down large projects into several smaller projects (under \$500 each) for a better chance of being funded).
2. **SIGN UP FOR AN ACCOUNT** at donorschoose.org/teachers. This link walks you through the process and offers other information.
3. **SHOP FOR THE ITEMS** you need for your project from the approved vendors.
4. **SUBMIT YOUR PROJECT**. The process should take less than 25 minutes.
5. **YOUR PROJECT WILL BE REVIEWED AND POSTED** by Donors Choose within about three days.
6. **IF YOUR PROJECT IS FULLY FUNDED**, supplies will be shipped directly to your classroom. If a project does not reach its goal, donors can redirect their contributions toward your next project.
7. **AFTER THE MATERIALS ARRIVE**, submit a brief report for Donors Choose.

TECHNOLOGY REQUESTS: It's important that all technology requests align with district technology guidelines, which will be displayed when you create your project. The guidelines can also be found [here](#).

FERPA AND CONFIDENTIALITY: Please make sure to comply with FERPA and confidentiality when sharing information about your students or posting photos. (Permission slips from parents are required by Donors Choose).

FOR OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION ABOUT DONORS CHOOSE, click [here](#). To access a 12-minute webinar "Donors Choose Guide to Teacher Success," click [here](#). If you have additional questions, please contact [Lori Brenno](#), Grants Specialist.

On eligibility, from the Donors Choose website:

Is my role or position eligible for DonorsChoose?

Your role **is eligible** to create projects on DonorsChoose if you meet **all of the following criteria**:

- You work in [an eligible school](#).
- You're employed full-time (or considered at least 0.75 FTE) by a public school, public charter school or the Office of Head Start.
- You're a front-line educator or other faculty member whose main responsibility is to directly teach or counsel students:
 - Front-line educators and other faculty can include (but aren't limited to): classroom teachers, subject-area teachers, librarians, therapists, counselors, school nurses, etc.
- You're in charge of creating your own lesson plans (or equivalent in a non-classroom role), and not primarily assisting another lead teacher.

Your role **is not eligible** to create projects on DonorsChoose if you:

- Are in a primarily administrative role, e.g., Principal, coordinator, business officer, Dean
- Teach or train staff and other faculty members, and only spend some time with students while assisting other teachers, e.g., instructional coach/teacher developer
- Are a parent (including PTA members)
- Are an instructional aide or a school staff member that primarily assists other faculty members, e.g., teachers' assistant, paraprofessional, or student teacher
- Are an athletic coach who does not meet the eligibility criteria above
- Are a temporary substitute teacher, a part-time teacher, or an after-school teacher
- Are in a supporting 'school staff' role such as cafeteria worker, security guard, bus driver, etc.
- Work in an Early Head Start classroom