

Creating an account:

How to Get Started

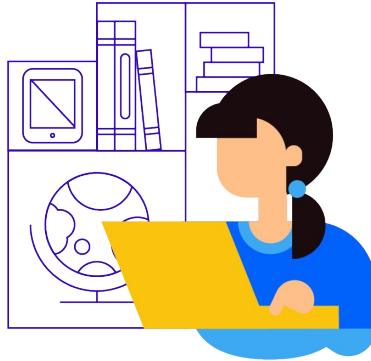
How it works

You know what your students need. We're here to help you get it.



1. Request Your Items

Get everything you need to be the teacher you want to be — all in one place.



2. Get Funded

Your friends and family lend a hand; our community of donors takes care of the rest.

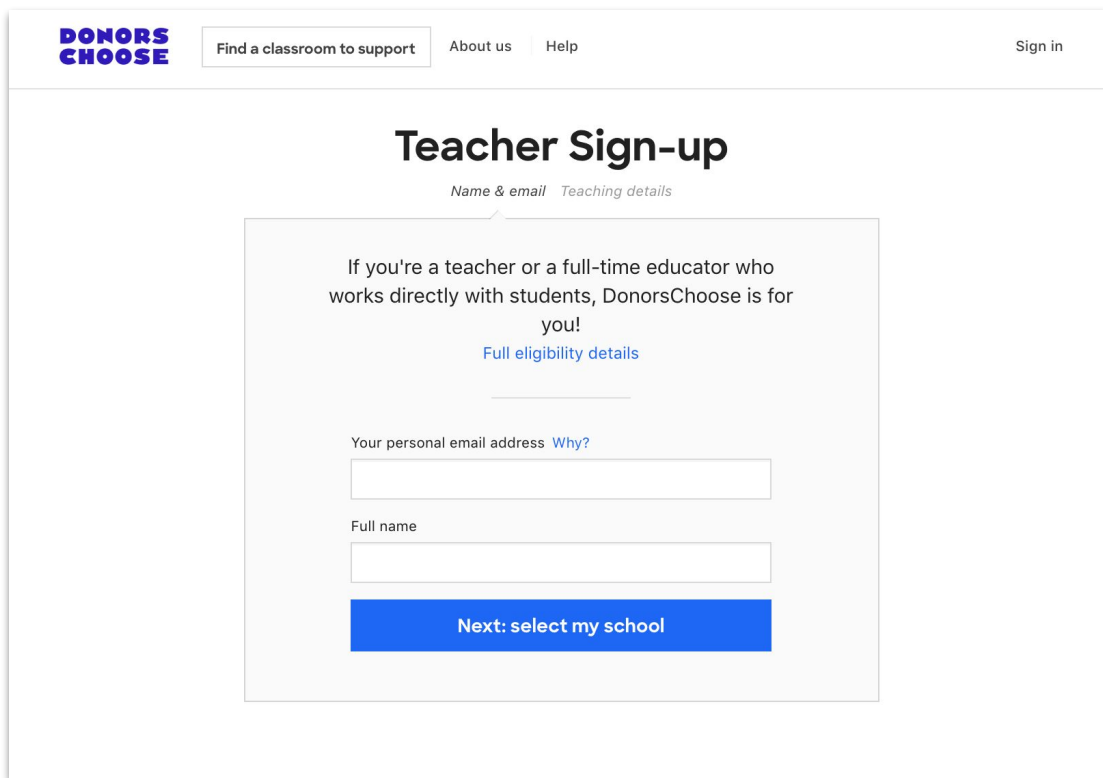


3. Receive the Goods

We order everything for you and ship it straight to you. Hello, packages!

Create an account.

This process should take about
5 minutes to complete.



The screenshot shows the DonorsChoose website's teacher sign-up process. At the top, the DonorsChoose logo is on the left, and navigation links for 'Find a classroom to support', 'About us', and 'Help' are in the center. A 'Sign in' link is on the right. The main heading is 'Teacher Sign-up'. Below it, there are two tabs: 'Name & email' (which is active) and 'Teaching details'. The 'Name & email' tab contains a light gray box with the following text: 'If you're a teacher or a full-time educator who works directly with students, DonorsChoose is for you!' followed by a link to 'Full eligibility details'. Below this is a form with two input fields: 'Your personal email address' with a 'Why?' link, and 'Full name'. At the bottom of the form is a blue button labeled 'Next: select my school'.

DONORS CHOOSE

Find a classroom to support About us Help Sign in

Teacher Sign-up

Name & email Teaching details

If you're a teacher or a full-time educator who works directly with students, DonorsChoose is for you!

[Full eligibility details](#)

Your personal email address [Why?](#)

Full name

Next: select my school



Brainstorm what your *virtual* classroom needs

Finish these sentences

To do their best work while learning remotely, my students need _____.

To engage my students in remote learning and bring lessons to life, I need _____.

_____ would make it easier for me to teach while my students are remote.



Brainstorm what your classroom needs

Finish these sentences

To teach an upcoming unit,
my students need_____.

To bring my dream learning activity
to life, my class needs _____.

To make my school a more vibrant
and engaging place for students,
my school needs _____.

Create a Classroom Project Request.

Once you log in to your account,
click **‘create a project’**.

From there, click **‘Let’s go!’** to
get started.

HI

WHO

WHAT

WHY

REVIEW

?

×

Welcome, Ms. Dowson.

You're in! Now let's get started creating your first DonorsChoose project.

Standard Project

Professional Development

You'll begin by briefly describing your students, then you'll shop online (our vendor network includes Amazon and Lakeshore) or request experiences for your students, and finish up by telling potential donors about how the project will impact your classroom. Most people spend about 20 minutes.

Let's go!

Apply a campaign code

NEED INSPIRATION?

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

Not sure what to request or how to frame it? **Browse some successful projects for inspiration.** Once you submit your project, our team of experienced teachers will look it over and make sure it's in great shape before it goes live on our site. When your project is fully funded, our team will take care of purchasing and paying for your project request. Materials will ship directly to your school.

Create a Classroom Project Request.

Take ~5 minutes to describe your students. Consider including things like **what your students love to learn**, what **makes them special**, and what **gets them excited** to come to school every day.

Don't worry about demographic data-that'll be displayed on the side of your project automatically.

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

Pick the *primary* grade levels that will benefit from this project.

Grades PreK-2

Grades 3-5

Grades 6-8

Grades 9-12

Number of students

How many students will benefit from this project this year?

250

Describe your students

Tell us what you love about your students. What makes them special? Specific details and anecdotes about your students are helpful.

★ [See some good examples](#) ★

Go Shopping for your classroom.

Shop for what you need through our **vendor portal**.

We've got friendly faces like Amazon, Best Buy Education, Lakeshore Learning, School Specialty and Staples.



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.

Be sure to double check sizes, accessories, and warranties when shopping.

Where to find commonly requested items



AKJ Education

FREE SHIPPING

Classroom collections, books, leveled reading, hands-on STEM, digital, audio, special needs resources, Spanish



Amazon Business

Education & teacher supplies, books, DVDs, CDs, furniture, eReaders, toys, computers, office supplies



EDUCATION

Best Buy Education

FREE SHIPPING

Chromebooks & licenses, tablets, projectors, a/v equipment, 3D printing, appliances, Google Expeditions



Blick Art Materials

Art supplies including paints, ceramics, drafting & architecture, art books & media, printmaking, and more

“

“When writing a project, keep the total as low as possible. You can do this by breaking it into chunks as much as possible. **I recommend books or general supplies that total less than \$200 for a first project.**”

”

Mrs. Walls, Calloway County High School

Write your project essay.

Tell donors a bit about your students and project.

This is your chance to give supporters a glimpse into your classroom, and why you need the materials you are requesting.

?

✕

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 these materials make a difference in your students' learning? Help readers picture the lessons you'll teach and your students' learning outcomes.
★ [See some good examples](#) ★

100 words minimum

Together, we rally supporters.

Donations to your first project will be matched!

You share your project in your network (like on social media, via email, and in person) while we let our community of supporters know about your new project.

9 DONORS

\$128 STILL NEEDED

\$472 GOAL

expires Feb 21 \$

OCT 28



Rico Vasquez from Texas gave

The DonorsChoose.org New Teacher Fund matched this donation

Like you, we are thrilled to help kickstart this project. Let's keep the momentum going!



Mr. Gomez responded

Thank you for your generous donation!

OCT 24



David Lee Gonzalez from Texas gave

I chose to give because our training staff has given us so much and I couldn't thank them enough for always taking care of my brothers and I. So I'm giving back to them. They deserve it

The DonorsChoose.org New Teacher Fund matched this donation

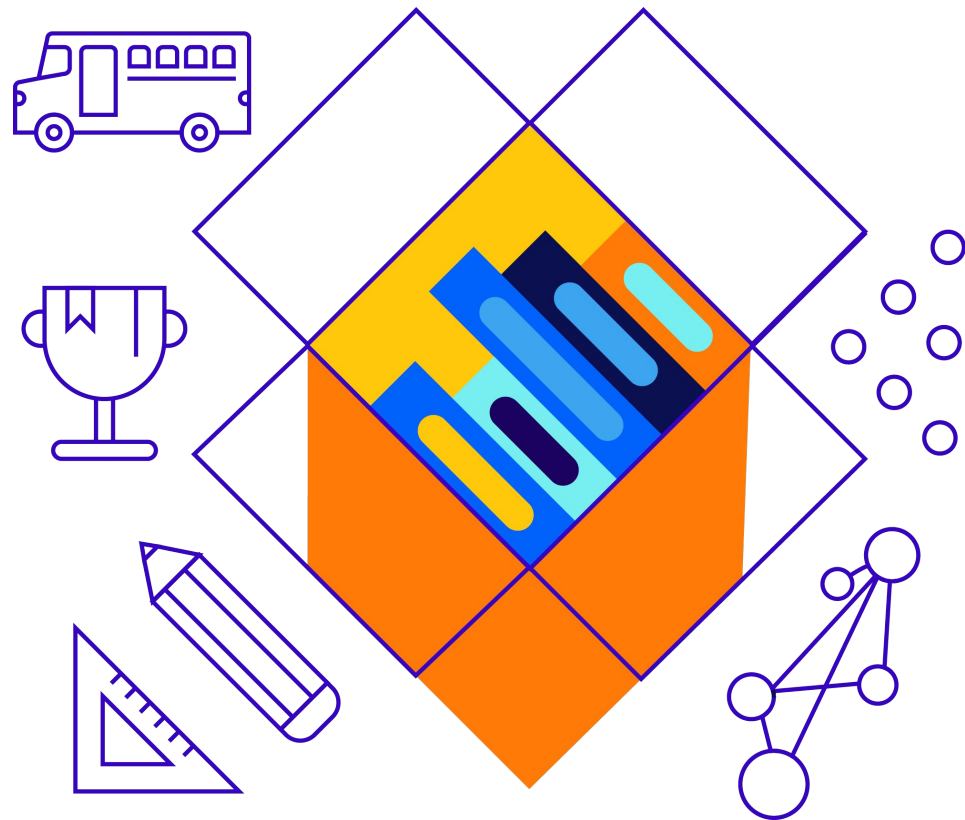
Like you, we are thrilled to help kickstart this project. Let's keep the momentum going!



You get your materials.

Once your project is fully funded, we purchase the materials you requested and ship them straight to your school, or to the location of your choice. Easy peasy.

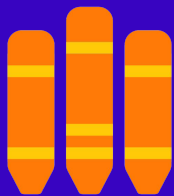
Most projects are eligible to be shipped directly to your home, school office, or the home of a student.



Funding your project:

Tips for Success

Best practices to get your project funded: Before Posting



Low cost projects have the highest chances of success

- Keep your project **under \$600** for the highest likelihood for getting funded
- Break large ideas into a few smaller projects

Write your essay with supporters in mind

- Keep student outcomes at the forefront while you describe your classroom needs

“

Keeping your **project cost low** increases the chances of funding. If asking for more expensive items, such as technology, ask for **one item at a time.**

”

Mrs. Walls, Kentucky

Best practices to get your project funded:

After Posting



Share code **LIFTOFF** to match donations.

- Eligible the **first week** of your **first project**
- Matches donations up to \$50
- Donors enter code when they make their donation

Share your project in your network

- Email
- Social Media

“

Once your project is live on the site encourage your supporters to **enter the word LIFTOFF** in the promo box during checkout. That code will **match their contribution** but only for the first week your project appears on the site so **hurry and share.**

Mrs. Koziarz, New York

”

Best practices to get your project funded:

Long-Term



Check Match Offers before posting

- Companies and organizations often support project ideas by matching donations to certain projects

Stay up to date on funding opportunities

- Check your emails from DonorsChoose frequently

Take opportunities to earn funds for your classroom

- There are sometimes opportunities to earn gift codes for your classroom. Be on the lookout!

donorschoose.org/matchoffers



I love checking out the Match Offers page for possible matches. **There are companies and organizations that will match donations** on qualifying projects.



Mrs. Fletcher, North Carolina

Get inspired:

Project Ideas

Books

Mrs. Arlaud is requesting books for her students to read while they are learning from home.

[Check out her project here.](#)

Book Club for Distance Learners

Help me give my students a common book that we can read together while they are learning from home.

1 DONOR

\$294 GOAL

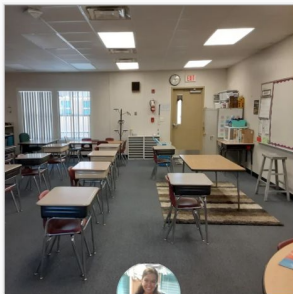
HOORAY! THIS PROJECT IS FULLY FUNDED

Mrs. Arlaud has another project! Donate to [Easing the Transition Back to School for Distance Learners](#) to help her classroom.

\$

Give

\$1,050 - complete this project and be a hero



Mrs. Arlaud

Grades 3-5

[South Woods Elementary School](#)

Elkton, FL

Nearly all students from low-income households



1 donor has given to this project.

My Students

Our school is a Title I school located in a rural, high poverty area, and we are fortunate to have a diverse group of hard-working families who entrust us with their children, although they may not have the means or time to donate or volunteer.

[The students in my classroom come from a variety of backgrounds and learn in many different ways.](#)

The students in my classroom will begin this year as distance learners, therefore I am preparing the most engaging, hands-on lessons that I can to help them maintain focus and still have excitement for learning, even from their homes.

My Project

Currently, our class of 3rd graders is distance learning from home to avoid exposure to the COVID virus. The students are doing a fantastic job of staying engaged and learning all the new procedures that go along with distance learning while we are trying to make it as close to the Brick and Mortar classroom as possible.

Art Supplies

Mrs. Kelly is asking for Model Magic to send home to her students so they can create art while learning remotely.

[Check out her project here.](#)

Model Magic Fun!

Help me give my students Model Magic so that they can create at home!

2 DONORS

\$254 GOAL

HOORAY! THIS PROJECT IS FULLY FUNDED

Mrs. Kelley has another project! Donate to [Packages by Mail 2!](#) to help her classroom.

\$

Give

All donations currently doubled!
You can complete this project for **\$153.**

2X



Mrs. Kelley

Grades PreK-2

[Roberto Clemente Learning Academy](#)

Detroit, MI

Nearly all students from low-income households

This classroom project was brought to life by An Anonymous Funder and one other donor.

[View more projects](#) matched by An

My Students

Our school is located in southwest Detroit. My students come to school eager and ready to learn. A majority of my students are English Language Learners (ELL/ESL). Their native language is Spanish, with little English at home. It is necessary to provide them with as many learning opportunities as possible within the classroom.

My students are amazing.

They are unique in their own way and have different learning styles. A variety of learning tools and hands-on activities in my classroom are a must. My goal is to help them achieve all their goals and dreams.

My Project

Among the favorites and best projects my students have created in the past are those that are made out of Crayola Model Magic. This material is a clean, safe, and air-drying clay that is a wonderful alternative to regular clay which has to be fired in a kiln. When my students have a chance to work with Model Magic, they create some of the best and most creative artwork I have seen. Because of their past success, I want to keep the ball rolling which means that I am

Basic Supplies

Ms. Smith is requesting earbuds, lapboards and pencils pouches, that her students need to be successful during remote learning.

[Check out her project here.](#)

5th Grade Distance Learning Materials

Help me give my students the crucial materials such as earbuds, lapboards and pencils pouches, that they will need to be successful during remote learning.

\$574 GOAL

HOORAY! THIS PROJECT IS FULLY FUNDED

Keep the momentum going! Make a donation to Ms. Smith for her next project!

\$

Give



Ms. Smith

Grades 3-5

Goethe Elementary School

Chicago, IL

Nearly all students from low-income households



14 donors have given to this project.

My Students

My 5th graders have been doing an incredible job adapting to every challenge and obstacle that this pandemic has caused. They have gone above and beyond when it comes to their learning. I have been blown away by the accountability and dedication that they have shown me during this time.

It is an immense challenge to learn at home where the distractions can be endless.

I want to provide my students with the tools and materials that they will need to make them successful at home learners this year. They have been so supportive of me and each other during this time. Please help me support them during remote learning this year.

My Project

Distance learning is going to be a challenge. With schools being closed, we need to provide supplies so that students can continue being successful learning at home. We have been making the best

Books

Ms. Padilla is asking for books to support her 3rd graders in learning about Pompeii and Rome.

[Check out her project here.](#)

Magic TreeHouse Unit on Pompeii and Ancient Rome

Help me give my students engaging books to have at home to participate in a class book study with related math and art materials.

5 DONORS

\$606 GOAL

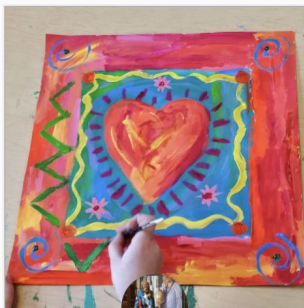
HOORAY! THIS PROJECT IS FULLY FUNDED

Ms. Padilla has another project! Donate to [Actually, It Is Rocket Science!](#) to help her classroom.

\$

Give

\$164 - complete this project and be a hero



Ms. Padilla

Grades 3-5

[Cragin Elementary School](#)

Tucson, AZ

Nearly all students from low-income households

My Students

My students are beautiful third grade learners who bring a smile to my face every day! They are energetic, curious, creative, and eager to learn. I work at a diverse Title I elementary school where the majority of my students come from poverty.

[I want my young learners to focus on their unlimited possibilities and not their challenging situations.](#)

I encourage my students to dream of their futures by greeting them daily with titles such as "Good morning future doctors, lawyers, teachers, policemen, scientists, artists, and engineers!"

My students are hard workers and are motivated to improve themselves as learners. When they learn that others believe in them, it encourages them to try even harder!

Thank you for your consideration!

Postage and cards

Ms. James created a project for stamps, cards, and items to send to her students during online learning.

[Check out her project here.](#)

Special Delivery!

Help me give my students encouragement through mailed notes, happy birthday cards, and rewards for their hard work through online learning!

\$179 GOAL

HOORAY! THIS PROJECT IS FULLY FUNDED

Ms. James has another project! Donate to [Book Bundles](#) to help her classroom.

\$

Give

\$335 - complete this project and be a hero



Ms. James

Grades PreK-2

Highlands Grove Elementary School

Lakeland, FL

Nearly all students from low-income households



1 donor has given to this project.

My Students

Each and every day, I am surrounded by 40 innovative and exuberant students. Their stories and backgrounds fill my room with color and enthusiasm. They are incredibly open-minded and ready for a challenge when they walk through my doors each and every day.

An adventure awaits, and my scholars choose to rise to the challenge in spite of the challenges they may face at home or the lack of parental involvement.

My students choose to RISE! This is just the beginning of my little leaders.

My Project

I loved getting mail as a kid! Every year I am intentional on creating a positive, supporter, and encouraging classroom. Since we will be learning from home, I do not want my students to miss out on these opportunities.