



FUNDRAISER IDEAS FOR EDUCATORS RISING STUDENTS

All of these ideas stem from the basis of community support and involvement, most of the options provided are low or no cost.

We know the expense of membership fees, or the costs associated with attending the national conference can be a barrier to some students. Because of this we have compiled a list of fundraising ideas to help raise money to cover these expenses. The level of difficulty is based on the amount of planning, monetary investment, and time that we believe would be necessary to make these events successful.

Easy

- Coffee/Bake Sale – Gather students and families to participate in a bake sale at school.
- Student Created Recipe Book – Have students bring in their favorite recipes, compile into a book, print and sell copies to the community for a profit.
- Bottle and Can Drive (oldie but a Goodie) – You can gather cans and glass bottles to recycle at your local recycling center. Most items will have the listed value on the item.
- Donation can at a restaurant – Decorate a coffee can with photos of chapter members. Place cans in local businesses with a request for donations.
- Phone-a-thon (Lowest cost for highest return) – Create a script with why your chapter needs support, do a Google search for local businesses to reach out to in the community, have students call to ask for donations. Your story is important!

Medium

- Wing Tasting Contest – Have members of the school or community cook wings for an event where patrons must pre-purchase tickets to taste and vote on the best wings.
- Gift Wrapping – When holidays come around, people are happy to give! Offer your services to the community and host a gift-wrapping party where you wrap gifts for your community at their request for a donation.
- Car Wash – Donation based car washes! Partner with a local business (grocery and auto parts stores work well) and run a two-day car wash (Saturday & Sunday) where the students wash the cars in return for a donation.
- Karaoke Night – Have the school host a night of karaoke with concessions or food! Charge fees to cover cost and add profit.
- Polar Bear Plunge – Plan a polar bear plunge by gathering students, teachers, along with members of the community to jump into a cold body of water (lake, pool, etc.) in support of students with donations to be made before or after the event!
- Community Auction – Auction from items donated from local businesses or stores



More Difficult

- Student based art exhibit – Students create artwork and sell tickets for attendance holding it at the school or a local business. Another option would be to ask for donations from local artists and sell the pieces with your chapter keeping the proceeds.
- Host a Triathlon – Gather members of the community and create your own triathlon, coordinate with locations and your local authorities to block off the needed space. Ask for sponsors for participants and sell tickets to attend.
- Silent disco – Use your school's gym/auditorium to host a silent disco, you can do this by gathering a couple of radio transmitters as well as party headphones that can all link up together. Charge students to attend. Sell snacks at the concession stand for even more of a profit.
- Outdoor movie (Football stadium with concessions) – Set up a drive-in like outdoor or indoor movie night with projector and sell tickets to the community and other students! Sell snacks at the concessions for even more of a profit.
- Talent show hosted by students – Recruit students and/or community members to participate in the talent show! Set this up in your gym/auditorium. Sell tickets to participate and/or attend. Host a concession stand for even more of a profit!
- Student/teacher created escape room – Create an escape room in one or more classrooms completely student made and hosted! Sell tickets to students and the community to attend. Sell snacks in the cafeteria.
- Host a local market at your school – Invite local businesses to set up a booth for a day and ask for a percentage of their sales or sell tickets to enter to shop these businesses with discounts available at each booth
- Cutest pet contest – Hold a pet show at your school and charge entry fees for both participants and/or sell ticket fees for attendees.

Crowdfunding

DONORSCHOOSE.ORG

The following information is from the DonorsChoose.org FAQ. [Visit the website to learn more.](#)

How does it work?

DonorsChoose.org is an online charity that makes it easy for anyone to help students in need. Public school teachers from every corner of America post classroom project request on our site, and you can give any amount to the project that most inspires you.

When a project reaches its funding goal, we ship the materials to the school. You'll get photos of the project taking place, a letter from the teacher, and insight into how every dollar was spent. Give over \$50 and you'll also receive hand-written thank-yous from the students.

**Is there a minimum donation?**

You can give as little as \$1 and get the same level of choice, transparency, and feedback that is traditionally reserved for someone who gives millions.

What happens if a project doesn't reach its goal?

If a partially funded project expires, donors get their donations returned as account credits, which they can use to:

- Choose a new project to support.
- Send the teacher they supported a DonorsChoose.org gift card.

How do you ensure integrity?

We vet every classroom project request, purchase the materials and ship them directly to the school, provide photos of the project taking place, and supply a cost report showing how every dollar was spent.

What kinds of schools do you serve?

K-12 public schools in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, including public charter schools.

How did DonorsChoose.org start?

Charles Best, a new social studies teacher in the Bronx, often talked with his colleagues about materials and experiences they wanted their students to have, but which they had no funding to support. He created DonorsChoose.org in 2000 so that individuals could connect directly with classrooms in need.

Are gifts tax-deductible?

As a 501(c)3 charity, donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of U.S. law. Our federal tax ID number is 13-4129457.

How long does a project appear on your site?

Projects can remain on our site for up to four months, but teachers can set earlier deadlines if they choose.

What percent of projects are successfully funded? 70%. For more stats, see [our impact page](#).**Does it cost money for teachers to post projects?**

No, our website is completely free for teachers to use.

Can I donate the materials themselves rather than make a cash donation?

We're not set up to handle in-kind donations, but these [great organizations](#) are.

What's your mission?

DonorsChoose.org engages the public in public schools by giving people a simple, accountable and personal way to address educational inequity. We envision a nation where children in every community have the tools and experiences needed for an excellent education.

GOFUNDME

This is an option for crowdfunding that is not education-specific. The following information is from Wikipedia; [visit the GoFundMe website to learn more.](#)

How does it work?

GoFundMe allows users to create their own website to describe what they are raising money for. During this process, members can describe their fundraising cause, the amount they hope to raise, and upload photos or videos. Once the website is created, GoFundMe allows users to share their project with people through integrated social network links (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) and email. People can then donate to a user's cause through the website and track the progress of their funding. Those who donate can also leave comments on the website in support of the project.

Are there any fees associated with using GoFundMe?

GoFundMe generates revenue by automatically deducting an 8% fee from each donation users receive. If the user receives no donations, then no charge is made.

GoFundMe is unique to crowdfunding in that they are not an incentive-based crowdfunding website. Although they do allow projects that are meant to fund other projects for musicians, inventors, etc., the business model is set up to allow for donations to personal causes, which makes it a good choice for students and schools.

Here is some guidance on getting started.

1. Start your fundraiser
 - Set your fundraiser goal
 - Tell your story
 - Add a picture or video
 - [Watch a video tutorial](#)
2. Share with friends
 - Send emails
 - Send text messages
 - Share on social media
 - [Watch a video tutorial](#)
3. Manage donations
 - Accept donations
 - Thank donors
 - Withdraw funds

