

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: All School-Level Administrators and Teachers
From: Dr. Marcia Oglesby, Director of Grants and Partnerships
Through: Mrs. Jennifer Caracciolo, Interim Chief of CEIP
Date: September 5, 2025
Subject: *Funding Focus Friday*: DonorsChoose for Small Asks and Big Wins!

Founded in 2000 by Bronx teacher Charles Best, DonorsChoose was created after he observed that educators often spend hundreds of their own dollars each year. The platform helps classrooms secure funding for additional resources. So far, DCSD educators have raised \$5.7 million from more than 22,500 donors, supporting nearly 10,000 projects for over 3,000 teachers. These resources are shipped directly to schools.

DonorsChoose allows teachers and administrators to address learning gaps, enhance enrichment, and increase engagement. Here are a few examples of funded projects:

- *Early Literacy Jumpstart (K–5)*: Decodables, fluency sets, headphones for small-group acceleration.
- *Math Sense Stations (3–Algebra I)*: Manipulatives, whiteboards, and games for conceptual catch-up.
- *STEM & Coding Carts (4–8)*: Robotics, circuits, and design challenges for hands-on problem solving.
- *Multilingual Newcomer Library (All Grades)*: Bilingual texts and language supports.
- *Flexible Seating & Focus Tools (All Grades)*: Wobble stools, lap desks, sensory supports.

How to get funded? (It's so simple!):

- *Get Approval*: Notify your principal in writing 15 days before launch ([Board policy](#)).
- *Sign Up*: Full-time public school teachers register in minutes.
- *Describe It*: What you need, why, and the student outcomes it will help create.
- *Share It*: Post your project link via email, social, flyers, & through family networks.
- *Get Funded*: Watch support roll in! Then the supplies are shipped straight to you.

STEM Reminder 1: Starting on Wednesday, September 10, every donation made to STEM projects on DonorsChoose will be DOUBLED, thanks to its corporate partner *Ripple*. The *Ripple STEM Match* program is an incredible opportunity for teachers to secure the STEM resources their students need for hands-on learning, creative thinking, and exploration.

STEM Reminder 2: The *Ripple STEM Innovation Challenge* will select five teachers to receive a \$100,000 DonorsChoose gift code to fund even more learning opportunities. To qualify, simply submit a STEM project under \$1,000 now.

Learn more about DonorsChoose [HERE](#). DCSD's DonorsChoose landing page is [HERE](#).

The [Department of Grants and Partnerships](#) is here to support you in shaping your ideas and strengthening your submissions. To begin your application or have your questions answered, email us at grantsandpartnerships@dekalbschoolsga.org.

Thank you from the DCSD Grants and Partnerships Team:

Dr. Marcia Oglesby, *Director*

Mrs. Libritta Anderson Griffin, *Coordinator II*

Dr. Donald Porter, *Lead Grant Strategist*

Ms. Demetric Crittle, *Coordinator*