



Pinellas Education Foundation

Classroom Funding Support Frequently Asked Questions

What is Classroom Funding Support?

Each year, thanks to donor generosity, Pinellas Education Foundation provides more than \$125,000 in classroom grants. Teachers and school administration can request up to \$1,000 for classroom resources, activities, and equipment not otherwise provided by their school.

Can I submit more than one request for support?

Yes, you can submit multiple requests, however teachers can only be awarded once per year.

Who is eligible for support?

Any public-school instructional staff in Pinellas County is eligible for funding. Support is available for all grade levels and subject areas.

What are the Foundation's funding priorities?

All grade levels and subject areas are encouraged to apply. Priority will be given literacy, math, STEM, or an innovative enrichment to curriculum.

What types of projects are NOT funded?

The DonorsChoose system does not accommodate projects involving in-person field trips or professional development, salaries/honoraria, and refurbish items. [Click here](#) for more information on DonorsChoose project eligibility requirements. Additionally, the Foundation will not fund the purchase of technology, such as computers, tablets, projectors, or printers.

What if my project needs items not purchasable through DonorsChoose?

If your project requires items that are not purchasable through DonorsChoose, you can complete a classroom grant request at the following link - [Classroom Grant Application](#).

If you have questions, please reach out to Mallory French at mfrench@pinellaseducation.org or 727-588-4816 ext. 2114 to discuss your project and we'll do our best to work with you.

When can I apply for funding?

Teachers can apply anytime on DonorsChoose. The Foundation will review the requests and make the first round of awards on or before September 15th. Applications will continue to be reviewed and awarded routinely until January 31st or until funds are exhausted. [Applying early increases your chances that funding will still be available.](#)

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to accelerate educational achievement for ALL students through the effective mobilization of innovation, relationships and resources.

How do I apply for funding?

Visit DonorsChoose.org, create a teacher account, or log into an existing account. Submit a funding request, which consists of a project essay and budget. In your project essay, be sure to provide details about your students and how this project will benefit them. The more detail you provide, the more likely your project will be funded. DonorsChoose has application guides and tips for getting your project funded, which can be found [here](#).

How much can I request?

Pinellas Education Foundation will consider funding projects up to \$1,000.

DonorsChoose charges processing fees. What if those fees push my request over \$1,000?

The \$1,000 maximum request is before any DonorsChoose-imposed fees. If those fees push the total budget over \$1,000, your project will still be considered.

Can friends and family contribute to my project?

Yes! Even if the Foundation doesn't fund your project, you can still crowdfund it through DonorsChoose. Other foundations and philanthropists also routinely fund projects they find through DonorsChoose and may support yours. Pinellas Education Foundation will still consider projects that are partially funded by other parties.

How long will my project stay on DonorsChoose?

Project requests will remain on DonorsChoose for four months. If it is not fully funded in that time, it will be taken down and you will need to resubmit the request.

How can I help my chances of being funded?

Having a well-written and detailed application essay will help the reviewers understand your project. Share the impact the project will have, including the number of students involved and the academic benefits to them. The Foundation prefers to fund projects that are creative, innovative, and sustainable beyond just one class or school year.

My project was funded. Now what?

- Teachers will be notified by the Foundation if their project is funded.
- DonorsChoose will purchase your items and ship them directly to your school.
- Receive your items and begin using them in your classroom!
- Complete the impact report, write a thank you note, and submit some pictures of the project in action. This report will be sent to you by DonorsChoose.

Is there a report required if I'm funded?

Yes, all funded teachers are required within 4 months of being funded to complete a brief impact report and write a thank you letter. Pictures are great too! DonorsChoose will reach out regarding these items approximately 2 months after funding your project. These items will be shared with our donors and are critical to demonstrating the impact of their generosity and fostering future support. Teachers who fail to complete the reporting may be ineligible for future grant awards.