



Sept. 21, 2023

Dear Superintendents and BOCES Executive Directors,

I hope you are all doing well. Hopefully, you are past the flurry of the beginning of the school year and have settled into the more normal routines.

I have some good news about our DonorsChoose initiative! This morning, Gov. Jared Polis announced an additional opportunity for Colorado teachers to access DonorsChoose Program funding. The governor is allocating \$6.7 million from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) fund to the DonorsChoose program which provides \$1,000 to teachers for classroom supplies and resources to improve students' learning experiences. CDE will add another \$422,000 in COVID-19 relief funding to the initiative, for a total of \$7.1 million in this second opportunity for teachers.

The new investment builds on our extremely [successful collaboration with DonorsChoose in August](#), when we provided \$11 million in federal COVID-19 recovery funding to empower teachers to obtain supplies that could meet their specific classroom needs. That effort awarded \$1,000 to more than 2,300 Colorado teachers in just eight days. The additional state funding creates a second opportunity for Colorado teachers to submit project requests and take advantage of the program. Teachers can submit their project requests beginning today, Sept. 21, 2023, through Sept. 28, 2023, or until funds are fully allocated. This is a whole new round of funding and teachers should submit new projects to be eligible. Encourage you teachers to act fast- we anticipate that the funding will go quickly!

You can use this [Communications Toolkit](#) to share this project with your teachers.

Thank you for completing our survey!

I also want to thank everyone who filled out our survey on how well the Department of Education's services and resources are meeting your needs. About half of our districts have responded, and I'd love to get close to 100%! **Your feedback matters!** For those of you who haven't yet filled it out, I hope you can take a few moments to share your experiences and insights – it shouldn't take more than 10 minutes of your time. Your responses will help us shape our strategic priorities for the coming year and enhance





COLORADO
Department of Education

Office of the Commissioner
201 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203-1799

the support we provide to you and your educators. We will leave the survey open until Friday, September 29th.

[You can access the survey here.](#)

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susana Córdova".

Susana Córdova
Commissioner
Colorado Department of Education

