OKLAHOMA CITIZENS FOR EDUCATION TEACHER RESOURCE PACKET



Empowering Educators: The Ultimate Guide to Grants, Financial Aid, Wellness & Advocacy

For questions or additional resources, please contact OCE at: info@okcitizensedu.org · okcitizensedu.org

Dear, Oklahoma Educators,

At Oklahoma Citizens for Education (OCE), we believe that teachers are the backbone of our communities. Your work shapes the future of our children, workforce, and society. Yet, we recognize the challenges teachers face—from financial strain and limited classroom resources to burnout and lack of external support.

This Teacher Resource Packet was designed to be a one-stop guide filled with grants, financial aid, mental health resources, professional development opportunities, classroom tools, and advocacy support to empower and uplift teachers.

We hope this guide helps lighten your load, provide tangible solutions, and remind you that you are valued, appreciated, and supported. Please share this packet with fellow educators, and don't hesitate to reach out if there's anything we can do to support you further. We are happy to help you fill out or apply for any of the programs listed below!

With gratitude, The BCE Team

For questions or additional resources, please contact OCE at: info@okcitizensedu.org • okcitizensedu.org

TOP 5 ACTIONS 5 OTAKE RIGHT NOW!

info@okcitizensedu.org · okcitizensedu.org

 We know this resource packet is *packed full of information*. Here's a **quick guide** on where to start:



APPLY FOR A GRANT

Start with DonorsChoose or OECU Grants to fund classroom supplies.



REDUCE STUDENT LOAN DEBT See if you qualify for the Teacher Loan

Forgiveness or Perkins Loan Cancellation Program.



GET FREE CLASSROOM SUPPLIES Register for Kids in Need Foundation to receive free materials.



TAKE CARE OF YOUR WELL-BEING Sign up for Happy Teacher Project or use the 24/7 Educator Mental Health Hotline.



ADVOCATE FOR MORE FUNDING Contact your state legislator using the prewritten advocacy letter in this packet.

info@okcitizensedu.org · okcitizensedu.org

Oklahoma Citizens for Education (OCE) Teacher Resource Packet

Empowering Educators: The Ultimate Guide to Grants, Financial Aid, Wellness & Advocacy

Dear Educator,

You are not alone.

Dear Oklahoma Educators,

At Oklahoma Citizens for Education (OCE), we believe that teachers are the backbone of our communities. Your work shapes the future of our children, workforce, and society. Yet, we recognize the challenges teachers face—from financial strain and limited classroom resources to burnout and lack of external support.

This Teacher Resource Packet was designed to be a one-stop guide filled with grants, financial aid, mental health resources, professional development opportunities, classroom tools, and advocacy support to empower and uplift teachers.

We hope this guide helps **lighten your load**, **provide tangible solutions**, **and remind you that you are valued**, **appreciated**, **and supported**. Please share this packet with fellow educators, and don't hesitate to reach out if there's anything we can do to support you further. We are happy to help you fill out or apply for any of the programs listed below!

With gratitude and unwavering support, **The OCE Team**

For questions or additional resources, contact OCE at:

Contact Us: info@okcitizensedu.org Visit Us: okcitizensedu.org

Investing in You – Because You Shouldn't Have to Fund Your Own Classroom

Your students deserve every opportunity to learn, explore, and grow. And you deserve the resources to make that happen—without carrying the financial burden alone.

Every year, teachers across the country **spend hundreds**, even thousands of dollars out of their own pockets to provide basic classroom supplies. But help is available, and we're here to make sure you get it.

Below, you'll find a list of **funding sources**, grants, and classroom support programs designed to provide you and your students with what you need.

No more scrambling for supplies. No more wondering if there's help out there. No more carrying this weight alone.

How OCE Can Help You Apply for Grants

Finding a grant is one thing. **Winning a grant is another.** That's why OCE doesn't just provide a list of opportunities—we offer **guidance and support to help you apply.**

✓ Need help writing a strong application? We'll provide templates, checklists, and writing support.

✓ Not sure where to start? We'll help match you to grants that fit your needs.

✓ Feeling overwhelmed? You're not in this alone—we'll walk you through the process step by step.

We want you to **focus on what matters most—teaching.** Let us help you access the funding that's waiting for you.

(Grant list follows here)

Table of Contents

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Mission & Purpose
- 3. Why Support Teachers?
- 4. Overview of Resources
- 5. Top 5 Actions to Take Right Now
- 6. Financial Support & Grants for Teachers
- 7. Personal Financial Assistance & Loan Forgiveness
- 8. Home & Mortgage Assistance
- 9. Classroom Resources & Free Supplies
- 10. Discounts & Perks for Teachers
- 11. Mental Health & Wellness Support
- 12. Professional Development & Certification Support
- 13. Teacher Advocacy & Legal Resources
- 14. Community Support & Peer Networks
- 15. Oklahoma-Specific Resources
- 16. Teacher Recognition & Awards
- **17.** Grant Writing Best Practices (NEW Expanded section to help teachers write successful grant applications)
- 18. Funding & Grant Writing Assistance
- 19. Teacher Leadership & Mentoring Programs
- 20. Technology & Digital Tools for Educators
- 21. Extracurricular & Enrichment Grants
- 22. Scholarships for Teachers & Future Educators

23. Additional Funding Opportunities

- 24. Navigating Grant Applications: Step-by-Step Guide (NEW A structured guide to help teachers through the process of applying for grants)
- **25.** How to Advocate for More Education Funding (NEW A section dedicated to helping teachers push for increased funding and policy changes)
- **26.** Resource Checklist & Quick Links (NEW A condensed checklist with direct links to funding, mental health, and classroom resources)
- 27. OCE Support Services & How to Get Help (NEW Instructions on how OCE can help teachers access resources and apply for grants)

Section 1: Introduction

Welcome to the **Oklahoma Citizens for Education (OCE) Teacher Resource Packet**, designed to **empower educators** with funding, professional development, wellness support, and advocacy tools. This packet provides a **comprehensive set of resources** to ensure teachers have access to essential support.

Section 2: Mission & Purpose

OCE is committed to providing educators with the resources they need to **thrive in and beyond the classroom**. Our mission is to:

- Support educators through grants, funding, and professional development.
- Advocate for better teacher benefits, pay, and working conditions.
- Equip teachers with mental health support and financial relief options.
- Connect educators with discounts, scholarships, and community networks.

Section 3: Why Support Teachers?

Every successful leader, entrepreneur, or professional was once shaped by an educator. Teachers play a **critical role** in shaping the next generation, yet many lack access to **financial and professional resources**. This packet serves as a **comprehensive support system** to ensure educators receive the recognition, financial stability, and well-being support they deserve.

Section 4: Overview of Resources

This packet includes **over 70** funding opportunities, discounts, grants, and wellness resources designed **specifically** for teachers. The resources fall into the following categories:

- Classroom Grants & Funding
- Personal Financial Assistance & Loan Forgiveness
- Homeownership & Mortgage Support
- Professional Development & Certification
- Mental Health & Well-Being
- Exclusive Teacher Discounts
- Oklahoma-Specific Programs & Grants

Section 5: Top 5 Actions to Take Right Now

We know this packet is packed with information! Here's a **quick guide** on where to start:

1. Apply for a Grant Today – Start with DonorsChoose or OECU Grants to fund classroom supplies.

2. Reduce Your Student Loan Debt – See if you qualify for Teacher Loan Forgiveness or the Perkins Loan Cancellation Program.

3. Get Free Classroom Supplies – Register for Kids in Need Foundation to receive free materials.

4. Take Care of Your Well-Being – Sign up for Happy Teacher Project or use the 24/7 Educator Mental Health Hotline.

5. Advocate for More Funding – Contact your state legislator using the pre-written advocacy letter in this packet.

Section 6: Financial Support & Grants for Teachers

This section provides **direct funding opportunities** for educators to support classroom needs, professional development, and student engagement. Originally, this section included **10 grant opportunities**, but I've expanded it to **15** to ensure teachers have more access to financial support.

Each grant below includes a description, eligibility criteria, and application details to make it easier for teachers to apply successfully. Teachers across the U.S. spend an average of \$500-\$1,000 of their own money each year on classroom supplies and learning materials. But you don't have to do it alone—these grants can help cover the costs of books, technology, hands-on projects, field trips, and professional growth.

Top 15 Grants for Teachers

1. DonorsChoose – Crowdfunding for Classroom Supplies

- What it funds: Teachers can create a classroom project and receive donations from individuals and corporate sponsors.
- Who can apply: All public school teachers.
- How to apply: Set up a project at <u>DonorsChoose.org</u>.
- **Deadline:** Rolling applications accepted year-round.

2. OECU Teacher Grant

- What it funds: Up to \$500 for classroom projects, supplies, and student activities.
- Who can apply: Oklahoma educators who are OECU members.
- How to apply: Submit an application at <u>OECU.org</u>.
- **Deadline:** Quarterly grant cycles.

3. Fund for Teachers Fellowship

- What it funds: Up to \$5,000 per teacher (or \$10,000 for a team) for professional development and classroom innovation projects.
- Who can apply: PreK-12 educators.
- How to apply: Apply at <u>FundForTeachers.org</u>.
- **Deadline:** Typically in January.

4. Voya Unsung Heroes Grant

- What it funds: Grants up to \$25,000 for innovative and creative classroom projects.
- Who can apply: K-12 educators in public and private schools.
- How to apply: Submit a proposal at Voya Unsung Heroes.
- **Deadline:** April each year.

5. Pets in the Classroom Grant

• What it funds: Up to \$125 for purchasing or caring for a classroom pet.

- Who can apply: PreK-9th grade teachers.
- How to apply: Apply at <u>PetsintheClassroom.org</u>.
- **Deadline:** Rolling applications accepted.

6. AdoptAClassroom.org

- What it funds: Teachers create a profile and can receive up to \$1,000 in funding from donors.
- Who can apply: All K-12 teachers.
- How to apply: Sign up at <u>AdoptAClassroom.org</u>.
- **Deadline:** Rolling applications accepted.

7. Kids in Need Foundation (KINF) – Free School Supplies

- What it funds: Provides free school supplies to classrooms in underfunded schools.
- Who can apply: Teachers in Title I schools or schools with 70% or more free/reduced lunch students.
- How to apply: Apply at <u>KINF.org</u>.
- **Deadline:** Rolling applications accepted.

8. Limeades for Learning (Sonic Drive-In)

- What it funds: Sonic Drive-In funds teacher projects through DonorsChoose.
- Who can apply: K-12 public school teachers.
- **How to apply:** Submit a DonorsChoose project and register for Limeades for Learning at LimeadesForLearning.com.
- **Deadline:** Seasonal funding rounds.

9. National Science Foundation Grants (NSF)

- What it funds: STEM education projects and classroom initiatives.
- Who can apply: K-12 educators and schools.
- **How to apply:** Find funding opportunities at NSF.gov.

• **Deadline:** Varies by grant.

10. NASA Education Grants

- What it funds: STEM-related educational initiatives, including space and robotics programs.
- Who can apply: K-12 teachers and schools.
- **How to apply:** Apply at <u>NASA STEM Grants</u>.
- **Deadline:** Varies by program.

11. The Snapdragon Book Foundation Grant

- What it funds: Funds classroom libraries and reading materials.
- Who can apply: Teachers and librarians in K-12 schools.
- How to apply: Apply at <u>Snapdragon Book Foundation</u>.
- **Deadline:** Spring each year.

12. The McCarthey Dressman Education Foundation Grants

- What it funds: Grants up to \$10,000 per year for innovative education projects and professional development.
- Who can apply: K-12 educators.
- How to apply: Apply at <u>McCartheyDressman.org</u>.
- **Deadline:** Opens in January, closes when 350 applications are received.

13. American Honda Foundation STEM Grants

- What it funds: STEM education and environmental projects in schools.
- Who can apply: K-12 teachers.
- **How to apply:** Apply at Honda Foundation Grants.
- **Deadline:** Quarterly application deadlines.

14. The Rural Schools Collaborative Grants

- What it funds: Up to \$5,000 for rural schools to develop place-based learning projects.
- Who can apply: Teachers in rural school districts.
- How to apply: Apply at <u>RuralSchoolsCollaborative.org</u>.
- **Deadline:** Typically in March.

15. National Geographic Society Educator Grants

- What it funds: Up to \$10,000 for geography, environmental science, and explorationbased classroom projects.
- Who can apply: K-12 teachers.
- How to apply: Apply at National Geographic Grants.
- **Deadline:** Rolling applications accepted.

Section 7: Personal Financial Assistance & Loan Forgiveness

Many teachers face **significant student loan debt** and **financial burdens** beyond classroom costs. This section provides **expanded financial assistance options**, including **loan forgiveness**, **debt relief**, **and cash assistance programs** designed to support educators. Originally, this section had **5 programs**—I've now expanded it to **15** to maximize access to financial relief for teachers.

Top 15 Financial Assistance & Loan Forgiveness Programs for Teachers

1. Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program

- What it provides: Up to \$17,500 in federal student loan forgiveness for teachers in low-income schools.
- Who is eligible: Full-time teachers with 5 consecutive years of service in a qualifying school.
- How to apply: Visit Federal Student Aid to apply.
- **Deadline:** Rolling applications accepted.

2. Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)

- What it provides: Full loan forgiveness after 120 qualifying payments under an income-driven repayment plan.
- Who is eligible: Teachers in public or nonprofit schools.
- How to apply: Visit PSLF at Student Aid.
- **Deadline:** Rolling applications accepted.

3. Oklahoma Rural Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program

- What it provides: Loan repayment assistance for teachers working in rural Oklahoma school districts.
- Who is eligible: Oklahoma teachers serving in designated rural schools.
- How to apply: Apply through the Oklahoma State Department of Education.
- **Deadline:** Applications open annually.

4. TEACH Grant Program

- What it provides: Up to \$4,000 per year in tuition assistance for teachers who agree to work in high-need fields at low-income schools for at least 4 years.
- Who is eligible: College students pursuing education degrees or teachers seeking certification in shortage areas.
- How to apply: Visit Federal TEACH Grant Program.
- **Deadline:** Rolling applications accepted.

5. Perkins Loan Teacher Cancellation

- What it provides: Up to 100% loan forgiveness for teachers working in low-income schools or teaching special education, math, science, or foreign languages.
- Who is eligible: Teachers with Perkins Loans.
- How to apply: Contact your loan servicer for application details.
- **Deadline:** Rolling applications accepted.

NEW ADDITIONS! More Personal Financial Assistance & Loan Repayment Programs

6. Federal Income-Driven Repayment (IDR) Plans

- What it provides: Reduces monthly loan payments to 10-15% of discretionary income and offers forgiveness after 20-25 years.
- Who is eligible: Teachers with federal student loans who need lower monthly payments.
- How to apply: Visit Federal Student Aid to enroll.
- **Deadline:** Rolling applications accepted.

7. State-Specific Teacher Loan Forgiveness Programs

- What it provides: Several states offer loan forgiveness programs beyond federal options.
- Who is eligible: Teachers in specific states; visit your state's Department of Education.
- How to apply: Check the <u>National Education Association (NEA) Loan Forgiveness</u> <u>Database</u> for state-specific programs.

8. NEA Member Benefits Financial Assistance

- What it provides: NEA members can apply for loan consolidation assistance, scholarships, and emergency financial aid.
- Who is eligible: Active NEA members.
- How to apply: Visit <u>NEA Member Benefits</u>.

9. The Horace Mann Educators Student Loan Solutions Program

- What it provides: Loan forgiveness consultation and public service loan forgiveness (PSLF) assistance.
- Who is eligible: K-12 public school teachers.
- How to apply: Visit <u>Horace Mann Loan Solutions</u>.

10. The American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Student Debt Clinics

- What it provides: Free guidance on PSLF, income-driven repayment plans, and teacher loan assistance.
- Who is eligible: Public school teachers.
- How to apply: Visit AFT Student Debt Clinics.

11. Home Loans for Teachers (Oklahoma-Specific Program)

- What it provides: Down payment assistance and lower interest rates on home mortgages for Oklahoma educators.
- Who is eligible: Certified teachers in Oklahoma.
- How to apply: Visit the Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency (OHFA).

12. The Educators' Credit Union Teacher Loan Program

- What it provides: Low-interest personal loans for teachers needing financial assistance for classroom expenses or emergencies.
- Who is eligible: Members of Educators Credit Union.
- How to apply: Visit <u>ECU Teacher Loan Program</u>.

13. The Teacher Next Door Home Buying Program

- What it provides: Up to \$8,000 in home purchase assistance and discounted real estate fees.
- Who is eligible: Teachers looking to purchase homes.
- How to apply: Visit <u>Teacher Next Door</u>.

14. The Oklahoma Teachers Emergency Assistance Fund

- What it provides: One-time grants of up to \$1,000 for teachers facing financial hardship.
- Who is eligible: Oklahoma educators experiencing emergencies or unexpected financial strain.
- How to apply: Contact the Oklahoma State Education Association.

15. The Dave Ramsey Teacher Financial Wellness Program

- What it provides: Debt reduction resources, budgeting tools, and free personal finance training.
- Who is eligible: Teachers seeking financial literacy and assistance with personal finance management.
- How to apply: Visit <u>Ramsey Education</u>.

Section 8: Home & Mortgage Assistance for Teachers

Many teachers **struggle to afford housing** due to rising home costs and student loan debt. This section provides **homeownership assistance**, **rental support**, **and mortgage relief programs** tailored specifically for educators.

Originally, this section had **4 programs**—I've now expanded it to **12** to maximize financial support for teachers looking to **buy, rent, or refinance homes.**

Top 12 Housing & Mortgage Assistance Programs for Educators

1. Teacher Next Door Program

- What it provides: Up to \$8,000 in home buying assistance + \$15,000 in down payment assistance for teachers purchasing a home.
- Who is eligible: K-12 teachers, pre-K educators, and some public school employees.
- How to apply: Visit <u>Teacher Next Door</u>.
- **Deadline:** Rolling applications accepted.

2. OHFA 4Teachers Program (Oklahoma-Specific)

- What it provides: Special low mortgage rates and down payment assistance for Oklahoma teachers.
- Who is eligible: Certified educators buying a home in Oklahoma.
- How to apply: Apply through <u>Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency (OHFA)</u>.
- **Deadline:** Rolling applications accepted.

3. Homes for Heroes

- What it provides: Special discounts on home purchases, refinancing, and closing costs for teachers.
- Who is eligible: K-12 teachers, school administrators, and support staff.
- How to apply: Visit <u>Homes for Heroes</u>.
- **Deadline:** Rolling applications accepted.

4. Landed Home Buying Assistance

- What it provides: Shared equity down payment assistance to help teachers afford homes in expensive markets.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators in high-cost areas.
- How to apply: Visit Landed Home Assistance.
- **Deadline:** Rolling applications accepted.

5. Good Neighbor Next Door Program (GNND)

- What it provides: 50% off the purchase price of a home for teachers in qualifying areas.
- Who is eligible: Full-time public school teachers working in HUD-designated revitalization areas.
- **How to apply:** Visit HUD GNND Program.
- **Deadline:** Rolling applications accepted.

6. Chenoa Fund Down Payment Assistance

- What it provides: Up to 5% of the home price in down payment assistance.
- Who is eligible: Teachers and other public sector employees who qualify for FHA home loans.
- How to apply: Visit <u>Chenoa Fund</u>.
- **Deadline:** Rolling applications accepted.

7. Community Seconds Mortgages (Fannie Mae Program)

- What it provides: Matching down payment assistance for educators purchasing homes.
- Who is eligible: Teachers buying homes through local and state assistance programs.
- How to apply: Visit <u>Fannie Mae Community Seconds</u>.
- **Deadline:** Rolling applications accepted.

8. USDA Rural Development Home Loans for Teachers

- What it provides: Zero down payment home loans for teachers buying in rural areas.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators purchasing homes in eligible rural zones.
- How to apply: Visit USDA Home Loans.
- **Deadline:** Rolling applications accepted.

9. The Extra Credit Teacher Home Purchase Program (State-Specific)

- What it provides: Reduced interest rates and grants for teachers buying homes.
- Who is eligible: Educators in select states (varies by state).
- How to apply: Check your state's housing finance agency.

10. FHA Teacher Mortgage Loans

- What it provides: Low-interest FHA home loans with only 3.5% down payment.
- Who is eligible: K-12 and early childhood educators.
- **How to apply:** Visit FHA Loans.
- **Deadline:** Rolling applications accepted.

11. National Homebuyers Fund Grants for Educators

- What it provides: Up to 5% in down payment assistance that does not have to be repaid.
- Who is eligible: First-time homebuyers in participating states.
- How to apply: Visit <u>National Homebuyers Fund</u>.

• **Deadline:** Rolling applications accepted.

12. Home Loan Assistance for Oklahoma Teachers (State-Specific)

- What it provides: Discounted mortgage rates and down payment grants for Oklahoma educators.
- Who is eligible: Certified teachers in Oklahoma.
- How to apply: Visit the Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency.

Section 9: Classroom Resources & Free Supplies

Teachers should **never** have to **pay out-of-pocket for essential classroom materials**, yet many do. This section provides **free classroom resources**, **supplies**, **and funding** to help teachers access the tools they need **without spending their own money**.

Originally, this section had 6 resources—I've now expanded it to 15, ensuring teachers have more ways to get books, technology, STEM kits, art supplies, and classroom essentials for free.

Top 15 Free Classroom Resources & Supply Programs for Teachers

1. Kids in Need Foundation (KINF) – Free School Supplies

- What it provides: Free school supplies for underfunded schools and students in need.
- Who is eligible: Teachers in Title I schools or those with 70% or more students on free/ reduced lunch.
- How to apply: Apply at <u>KINF.org</u>.
- **Deadline:** Rolling applications accepted.

2. DonorsChoose – Classroom Project Crowdfunding

- What it provides: Teachers post classroom projects and receive funding from donors.
- Who is eligible: K-12 public school teachers.
- How to apply: Create a project at <u>DonorsChoose.org</u>.
- **Deadline:** Rolling applications accepted.

3. AdoptAClassroom.org – Classroom Funding

- What it provides: Teachers receive up to \$1,000 in donations for classroom materials and projects.
- Who is eligible: All K-12 teachers.
- How to apply: Sign up at <u>AdoptAClassroom.org</u>.
- **Deadline:** Rolling applications accepted.

4. Share the Magic Foundation – Free Books for Students

- What it provides: Free books for underfunded classrooms and students to promote literacy.
- Who is eligible: Teachers in schools with high-need student populations.
- How to apply: Apply at <u>Share the Magic Foundation</u>.
- **Deadline:** Rolling applications accepted.

5. First Book Marketplace – Discounted & Free Books for Teachers

- What it provides: Deeply discounted books and classroom resources; occasional free book grants available.
- Who is eligible: Educators in low-income schools or nonprofit organizations.
- How to apply: Register at <u>FirstBook.org</u>.
- **Deadline:** Rolling applications accepted.

6. The Teachers' Lounge – Free Teacher Resource Exchange

- What it provides: A nationwide donation program where teachers can request and receive free classroom materials.
- Who is eligible: All K-12 educators.
- How to apply: Request items at <u>The Teachers' Lounge</u>.
- **Deadline:** Rolling applications accepted.

7. PBS LearningMedia – Free Digital Lesson Plans & Videos

- What it provides: Free high-quality videos, interactive lessons, and teaching resources.
- Who is eligible: All K-12 teachers.
- How to apply: Access resources at <u>PBS LearningMedia</u>.

8. Crayola Classpacks & Art Supplies Grants

- What it provides: Free art supplies and creative classroom materials for teachers in need.
- Who is eligible: K-8 teachers in underfunded schools.
- How to apply: Apply at <u>Crayola CreatEd</u>.
- **Deadline:** Rolling applications accepted.

9. STEMfinity – Free STEM Kits & Classroom Materials

- What it provides: Free STEM kits, coding supplies, and robotics materials for handson classroom activities.
- Who is eligible: K-12 STEM educators.
- How to apply: Apply at <u>STEMfinity</u>.

10. Recycle Your Classroom – Free Gently Used Supplies

- What it provides: Teachers can request free donated classroom supplies from businesses and community members.
- Who is eligible: K-12 teachers in public, charter, and nonprofit schools.
- How to apply: Sign up at <u>Recycle Your Classroom</u>.

NEW ADDITIONS! More Free Resources for Teachers

11. Epic! – Free Digital Books for Teachers

- What it provides: Unlimited access to 40,000+ children's books (free for educators).
- Who is eligible: K-6 teachers.

• How to apply: Sign up at Epic! for Educators.

12. NASA's Free Educational Resources for Teachers

- What it provides: Lesson plans, virtual field trips, and free educational materials on space, science, and engineering.
- Who is eligible: K-12 teachers.
- How to apply: Download resources at <u>NASA for Educators</u>.

13. Scholastic Book Clubs – Earn Free Books for Your Classroom

- What it provides: Teachers earn free books when students place book orders.
- Who is eligible: All K-8 teachers.
- How to apply: Join at Scholastic Book Clubs.

14. Logitech Cares Teacher Tech Program

- What it provides: Free or heavily discounted webcams, headphones, and digital tools for teachers using virtual learning.
- Who is eligible: K-12 teachers using remote or blended learning.
- How to apply: Apply at Logitech Cares.

15. EdPuzzle – Free Interactive Video Lessons for Teachers

- What it provides: Free interactive video tools that allow teachers to customize lessons.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators.
- How to apply: Sign up at <u>EdPuzzle</u>.

Section 10: Discounts & Perks for Teachers

Teachers deserve the absolute best deals on everything from technology, school supplies, travel, entertainment, wellness, apparel, and food. Originally, this section had 15 discounts but you're right! I've massively expanded it to 35 discounts so that educators can save on even more brands, services, and experiences.

Top 35 Exclusive Discounts & Perks for Educators

Technology & Electronics Discounts

- 1. Apple Education Pricing Up to \$200 off Macs & iPads + free AirPods with purchase during back-to-school season.
 - <u>Apple for Education</u>
- 2. Microsoft Education Discount Free Office 365 & special pricing on laptops.
 - <u>Microsoft Education</u>
- 3. HP Teacher Discount Up to 35% off laptops, printers, and accessories.
 - <u>HP Educator Discounts</u>
- 4. Dell Education Discount 10-20% off laptops & accessories for teachers.
 - Dell Education
- 5. Bose Teacher Discount Special pricing on headphones & speakers.
 - Bose Educator Discounts
- 6. Adobe Education Discount Up to 60% off Creative Cloud for teachers.
 - <u>Adobe Education Pricing</u>
- 7. Logitech Cares Teacher Tech Program Free or discounted webcams, keyboards, and accessories.
 - Logitech Cares

School & Classroom Supply Discounts

- 8. Office Depot & OfficeMax Teacher Discount 10% back in rewards on purchases.
 - Office Depot Star Teacher Program
- 9. Staples Teacher Rewards 5% back in rewards & exclusive classroom coupons.
 - <u>Staples Teacher Rewards</u>

- 10. Joann Fabrics Teacher Discount 15% off all purchases, including art & craft supplies.
 - Joann Teacher Discount
- 11. Lakeshore Learning Teacher Club 15% off classroom materials & free lesson plans.
 - Lakeshore Learning Teacher Club
- **12.** Scholastic Teacher Store Discounted books & free rewards points.
 - Scholastic Teacher Store

Travel Discounts

- **13.** National Park Service Free America the Beautiful annual pass for teachers.
 - NPS for Teachers
- 14. Expedia & Hotels.com Teacher Discounts Up to 20% off hotels & vacation packages.
 - <u>Expedia</u> | <u>Hotels.com</u>
- **15.** Disney & Universal Studios Exclusive discounted theme park tickets.
 - <u>TicketsatWork</u>
- **16.** Southwest Airlines Teacher Discount Special rates on select flights.
 - Call Southwest customer service to inquire about educator discounts.
- **17.** Amtrak Teacher Discount 10% off train tickets.
 - Amtrak

Entertainment & Media Discounts

18. SeaWorld & Busch Gardens – Free teacher admission.

- <u>SeaWorld Teacher Pass</u>
- **19.** AMC Theatres Teacher Discount Up to 20% off movie tickets.
 - <u>AMC Theatres</u>

20. Spotify & Hulu Teacher Discount – \$4.99/month for both services.

- <u>Spotify Education Discount</u>
- 21. Audible Teacher Discount 30% off audiobooks.
 - Call Audible customer service to inquire about educator pricing.

22. Barnes & Noble Educator Discount – 20% off books & classroom materials.

• Barnes & Noble Educator Program

Clothing & Retail Discounts

- 23. Nike Teacher Discount 10% off all purchases.
 - Nike Teacher Discount
- 24. L.L.Bean Teacher Discount 10% off outdoor gear, backpacks, and apparel.
 - <u>L.L.Bean</u>
- 25. Columbia Sportswear Teacher Discount 20% off outdoor clothing.
 - <u>Columbia</u>
- 26. Old Navy & Gap Teacher Discounts Special sales events for educators.
 - Ask in-store or check online promotions.

Food & Restaurant Discounts

- 27. Chipotle Teacher Appreciation Day BOGO free burritos during appreciation week.
 - Available in-store once a year—check with your local Chipotle.

28. McDonald's Teacher Discount – Occasional free coffee & food promotions.

- Varies by location—ask at your nearest McDonald's.
- 29. Pizza Hut Teacher Rewards Special discounts & free personal pan pizzas for educators.
 - Ask your local Pizza Hut for details.

Health & Wellness Discounts

- **30**. Verizon Wireless Educator Discount Special pricing on unlimited phone plans.
 - Verizon Educator Discounts
- **31.** AT&T Teacher Discount 15% off monthly phone service.
 - <u>AT&T</u>
- **32.** Calm for Teachers Free Lifetime Subscription
 - Calm for Teachers
- **33.** Headspace for Educators Free Mindfulness App Subscription
 - Headspace for Educators
- **34.** 24 Hour Fitness Teacher Discount Reduced monthly membership rates.
 - <u>24 Hour Fitness</u>
- **35.** Nike Training Club Free Premium Workout Access for Teachers
 - Nike Training Club

Section 11: Mental Health & Wellness Support for Teachers

Teaching is **one of the most emotionally and physically demanding professions**, yet many educators **struggle to access affordable mental health support**. This section provides **free and discounted wellness programs** designed to help teachers **reduce stress**, **prevent burnout**, **and prioritize self-care**.

Originally, this section had **5 resources**, but I've now expanded it to **20**, ensuring **more teachers have access to free therapy, meditation apps, wellness grants, and mental health programs.**

Free & Discounted Mental Health Resources for Educators

1. Calm for Teachers – Free Lifetime Access to Meditation & Sleep Resources

- What it provides: Free premium access to the Calm app, including meditation, stress reduction, and sleep tools.
- Who is eligible: All K-12 teachers, school staff, and faculty.

- 2. Headspace for Educators Free Mindfulness & Stress Relief App
 - What it provides: Free access to meditation and mindfulness programs for teachers.
 - Who is eligible: K-12 educators and support staff.
- 3. <u>The Happy Teacher Project</u> Free Burnout Recovery Program
 - What it provides: Free online mental wellness courses designed for educators facing burnout and stress.
 - Who is eligible: All teachers, school counselors, and administrators.
- 4. <u>Talkspace Online Therapy for Teachers</u> Discounted Virtual Therapy Sessions
 - What it provides: Up to 50% off therapy & counseling for teachers.
 - Who is eligible: K-12 and college educators.
- 5. <u>BetterHelp Counseling for Educators</u> 30% Off Licensed Therapy Sessions
 - What it provides: Affordable online therapy with a licensed counselor at a discount for teachers.
 - Who is eligible: Any educator seeking mental health support.

Physical & Emotional Wellness Programs

6. Nike Training Club – Free Premium Workouts for Teachers

- What it provides: Unlimited access to fitness training programs designed for busy educators.
- Who is eligible: All teachers and school employees.

7. <u>24 Hour Fitness Teacher Membership</u> – Discounted Gym Memberships

- What it provides: Special reduced membership rates for teachers.
- Who is eligible: Educators with a valid school ID.

8. <u>FitOn Pro for Teachers</u> – Free Virtual Fitness Classes

- What it provides: Free access to at-home workout programs, including yoga and strength training.
- Who is eligible: Teachers and school staff.

9. <u>Therapy Aid Coalition</u> – Free Therapy Sessions for Educators in Crisis

- What it provides: Free emergency therapy for teachers facing high stress, trauma, or anxiety.
- Who is eligible: Educators dealing with mental health struggles.

10. <u>Breathe for Change</u> – Mindfulness & Yoga for Teachers

- What it provides: Scholarships for teacher wellness training to help educators manage stress through mindfulness and movement.
- Who is eligible: K-12 teachers and school leaders.

Mental Health & Burnout Prevention Support

- 11. <u>Educators Thriving</u> Free Well-Being Coaching Program
 - What it provides: A structured mental health & stress management program specifically designed for teachers.
 - Who is eligible: All educators, from early career to veteran teachers.

12. Zen Teacher Virtual Retreat – Free Self-Care Workshops for Teachers

- What it provides: Free stress reduction retreats and virtual workshops for teachers.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators and school staff.

13. <u>The Mindful Teacher Foundation</u> – Free Teacher Mindfulness Training

- What it provides: Self-care strategies and mindfulness exercises designed for teachers.
- Who is eligible: All educators looking to improve mental resilience.

14. <u>The Teacher Care Network</u> – Free Community Mental Health Support

- What it provides: Access to peer support groups, wellness coaching, and mental health resources.
- Who is eligible: All K-12 teachers and school employees.

Financial Support for Mental Health & Wellness

15. <u>Grants for Educator Wellness</u> – Funding for Teacher Mental Health Programs

- What it provides: Grants to help schools fund mental health initiatives for teachers.
- Who is eligible: Educators looking for school-based wellness funding.

16. <u>We Are Teachers Mental Health Grants</u> – Funding for Teacher Self-Care

- What it provides: Mini-grants for teachers to access self-care programs.
- Who is eligible: K-12 teachers in need of financial assistance for mental health care.

17. <u>Hope for Educators Fund</u> – Grants for Teachers Facing Burnout

- What it provides: Financial assistance for educators taking time off for mental health recovery.
- Who is eligible: Teachers dealing with burnout or emotional exhaustion.

Helplines & Emergency Support

18. <u>Teacher Stress & Mental Health Hotline – 1-800-4-TEACHERS</u>

- What it provides: 24/7 mental health hotline offering free crisis support for teachers.
- Who is eligible: All K-12 teachers, school staff, and administrators.

19. SAMHSA National Helpline – 1-800-662-HELP

- What it provides: Free, confidential mental health support & addiction recovery assistance.
- Who is eligible: Any educator in need of emotional or mental health help.

20. <u>National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 988</u>

- What it provides: 24/7 free crisis support for anyone in distress.
- Who is eligible: Teachers struggling with depression, anxiety, or crisis situations.

Section 12: Professional Development & Certification Support for Teachers

Ongoing **professional development** is essential for teachers to **expand their skills, earn certifications, and advance their careers**—but it can be expensive. This section provides **free and discounted professional development programs, certification courses, and training grants** to help teachers **learn, grow, and succeed without financial strain.**

Free & Discounted Professional Development Opportunities

1. NEA Learning & Leadership Grants – Up to \$5,000 for Professional Growth

- What it provides: Grants to help teachers attend conferences, training programs, or leadership workshops.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators in public schools.

2. <u>National Board Certification Incentive</u> – Funding for Becoming a National Board-Certified Teacher

- What it provides: Partial or full funding for teachers pursuing National Board Certification (NBCT).
- Who is eligible: Educators with at least 3 years of teaching experience.

3. Google Certified Educator Program – Free Google Classroom & Tech Training

- What it provides: Certification in Google Tools for classroom use + digital skills training.
- Who is eligible: K-12 teachers and education professionals.

4. <u>Dyslexia Training for Educators</u> – Free Certification for Teaching Students with Dyslexia

• What it provides: Specialized training on supporting students with reading disabilities.

• Who is eligible: Any teacher working with struggling readers.

5. PBS TeacherLine – Free Online Professional Development Courses

- What it provides: Free & low-cost online courses on classroom management, instructional strategies, and more.
- Who is eligible: All K-12 educators.

6. <u>Harvard's Online Teacher Training Courses</u> – Free & Low-Cost PD from Harvard

- What it provides: Free & discounted education leadership, classroom management, and teaching strategy courses.
- Who is eligible: K-12 teachers and school administrators.

Certification & Leadership Development

7. <u>Teach for America Leadership Training</u> – Paid Certification & Teaching Fellowships

- What it provides: Leadership development + alternative teaching certification for educators in high-need schools.
- Who is eligible: New teachers & career changers interested in earning a teaching license.

8. <u>The Microsoft Innovative Educator (MIE) Program</u> – Free Training & Certification

- What it provides: Certification in Microsoft tools for classroom instruction.
- Who is eligible: K-12 teachers & faculty.

9. ISTE Certification for Educators – EdTech Certification for Digital Teaching

- What it provides: Professional certification in educational technology & instructional design.
- Who is eligible: Teachers integrating tech into their classrooms.

10. <u>Harvard Certificate in School Management & Leadership</u> – School Leadership Training

• What it provides: Certification program in school leadership & management.

• Who is eligible: Educators looking to transition into leadership roles.

Grants & Funding for Professional Development

11. <u>Fund for Teachers Fellowship</u> – Up to \$5,000 for Teacher-Led PD

- What it provides: Grants to support professional learning experiences chosen by the teacher.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators in public & charter schools.

12. Teachers for Global Classrooms (TGC) Program – Fully Funded International Teacher Training

- What it provides: Travel abroad experiences to help educators gain global teaching perspectives.
- Who is eligible: U.S. teachers in public, charter, and private schools.

13. <u>Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching</u> – Fully Funded Teaching Exchanges Abroad

- What it provides: Travel grants to study or teach abroad as part of a cultural exchange.
- Who is eligible: K-12 teachers with at least 5 years of experience.

14. <u>The EdSurge Teacher PD Fund</u> – Grants for EdTech Training

- What it provides: Funding for professional development in education technology.
- Who is eligible: Teachers integrating digital learning tools into their classrooms.

Micro-Credentials & Specialization Training

15. <u>Coursera for Teachers</u> – Free & Low-Cost PD from Top Universities

- What it provides: Online certifications & micro-credentials in teaching strategies, classroom tech, and more.
- Who is eligible: K-12 teachers.

16. EdX Teacher Training – Free & Low-Cost Teaching Certificates

- What it provides: Self-paced certification courses from universities like Harvard, MIT, and Stanford.
- Who is eligible: Educators looking for advanced learning opportunities.

17. Trauma-Informed Teaching Certification – Free Training for Supporting Students in Trauma

- What it provides: Certification in trauma-informed teaching strategies for educators.
- Who is eligible: Teachers working with students affected by trauma.
- 18. <u>Montessori Teacher Training Scholarships</u> Financial Aid for Montessori Certification
 - What it provides: Grants to help teachers earn a Montessori teaching credential.
 - Who is eligible: Educators interested in alternative teaching methods.

19. <u>The Reading League Professional Development</u> – Free Literacy Training

- What it provides: Free & low-cost courses on reading instruction & literacy development.
- Who is eligible: K-12 reading & ELA teachers.

20. <u>The STEM Teacher Leadership Network</u> – STEM PD & Networking for Science Teachers

- What it provides: Free online workshops, training, and networking opportunities for STEM educators.
- Who is eligible: K-12 STEM teachers & science educators.

Section 13: Teacher Advocacy & Legal Resources

Teachers play a crucial role in shaping society, and it's essential they have access to resources that protect their rights and support their professional needs. This section provides a comprehensive list of advocacy organizations and legal resources dedicated to assisting educators.

National Teacher Advocacy Organizations

1. National Education Association (NEA)

- What it offers: The NEA is the largest professional employee organization in the U.S., committed to advancing public education and supporting educators' rights. National Education Association | NEA+2National Education Association | NEA+2National Education Association | NEA+2
- **Services include:** Advocacy for public education policies, legal support, and professional development resources.
- Website: <u>https://www.nea.org/</u>

2. American Federation of Teachers (AFT)

- What it offers: AFT represents teachers and other educational professionals, focusing on improving the quality of education and safeguarding teachers' interests.
- **Services include:** Legal assistance, collective bargaining, and professional development.
- Website: <u>https://www.aft.org/</u>

3. Association of American Educators (AAE)

- What it offers: AAE is a national non-union organization that provides professional benefits and advocates for educators' rights. <u>Professional Oklahoma</u> <u>Educators</u>
- Services include: Liability insurance, legal protection, and professional resources. <u>NASW+3Professional Oklahoma Educators+3Association of American Educators+3</u>
- Website: <u>https://www.aaeteachers.org/</u>

Legal Defense and Support Funds

4. Faculty Legal Defense Fund by FIRE

- What it offers: Provides "first responder" assistance to faculty members facing threats to their academic freedom or free speech rights. <u>FIRE</u>
- Services include: Legal help at no cost, connecting educators with experienced counsel. <u>NASW+8ATPE+8Oklahoma Education Association+8</u>

• **Website:** https://www.thefire.org/defending-your-rights/legal-support/faculty-legal-defense-fund

5. NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF)

- What it offers: America's premier legal organization fighting for racial justice, including issues in education. <u>Time+5NAACP Legal Defense Fund+5NAACP Legal Defense Fund+5</u>
- Services include: Legal advocacy, public education, and policy development. <u>Professional Oklahoma Educators+2DREDF+2DREDF+2</u>
- Website: <u>https://www.naacpldf.org/</u>

6. Legal Defense Fund by National Association of Social Workers (NASW)

- What it offers: Supports precedent-setting lawsuits and provides legal resources of interest to social workers and educators. <u>NASW</u>
- Services include: Legal advocacy and educational resources.
- Website: https://www.socialworkers.org/about/legal/legal-defense-fund

State and Local Legal Support for Educators

7. Oklahoma Education Association (OEA) Legal Support

- **What it offers:** Provides legal assistance for both on-the-job and personal matters to its members. <u>Oklahoma Education Association</u>
- **Services include:** Personal Legal Services Program (PLSP) offering free and reduced-rate services. <u>Oklahoma Education Association</u>
- Website: https://okea.org/for-members/legal_support/

8. Professional Oklahoma Educators (POE) Legal Protection

- What it offers: A non-union, nonpartisan professional association offering legal assistance and representation. <u>Professional Oklahoma Educators</u>
- **Services include:** Liability insurance and legal services on topics such as terminations and disciplinary matters. <u>Professional Oklahoma Educators</u>
- Website: https://professionaloklahomaeducators.org/legal-protection/

9. United Federation of Teachers (UFT) Legal Services Plan

- What it offers: Provides union members with free and discounted legal services. United Federation of Teachers+1Wikipedia+1
- **Services include:** Telephone advice, consultation, and legal representation. <u>United Federation of Teachers</u>
- Website: https://www.uft.org/your-union/uft-programs/uft-legal-services-plan

Specialized Legal Resources

10. Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA)

- **What it offers:** Protects the right to homeschool and provides legal defense for homeschooling families.
- Services include: Legal representation and advocacy for homeschool freedom.
- Website: <u>https://hslda.org/</u>

11. Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)

- **What it offers:** Advances the civil and human rights of people with disabilities through legal advocacy and education.
- Services include: Legal support, training, and public policy development.
- Website: <u>https://dredf.org/</u>

Legal Guidance and Referral Programs

12. NEA Attorney Referral Program

- What it offers: Provides NEA members with legal advice on personal matters.
- **Services include:** Two free 30-minute consultation sessions per membership year and discounted rates for additional legal help.
- **Website:** https://www.nea.org/resource-library/attorney-referral-program

13. Texas Classroom Teachers Association (TCTA) Legal Services

- **What it offers:** Free access to legal experts for job-related legal questions or problems.
- Services include: Legal advice and representation.
- Website: https://www.tcta.org/legal-services

Section 14: Community Support & Peer Networks for Teachers

Teachers thrive in strong communities where they can share resources, exchange ideas, and receive support. This section provides online and in-person teacher networks, mentorship opportunities, and professional educator communities that foster collaboration, encouragement, and career development.

Online Teacher Support & Collaboration Communities

1. <u>EdWeb Teacher Professional Learning Network (PLN)</u> – Free Online Teaching Community

- What it provides: Free webinars, online courses, and peer collaboration forums for teachers.
- Who is eligible: All K-12 educators.

2. <u>Facebook Teacher Support Groups</u> – Peer Support & Classroom Resources

- What it provides: Thousands of teacher-specific Facebook groups for educators to share lesson plans, classroom management tips, and peer advice.
- Who is eligible: All teachers (join by searching for teacher groups on Facebook).

3. <u>Reddit r/Teachers Community</u> – Anonymous Peer Support for Educators

- What it provides: A forum where teachers discuss classroom challenges, career advice, and industry updates.
- Who is eligible: All educators (anonymous participation allowed).
- 4. <u>Teachers Pay Teachers Community</u> Share & Download Lesson Plans

- What it provides: A marketplace where teachers can buy, sell, and share lesson plans and teaching resources.
- Who is eligible: All educators.

5. <u>WeAreTeachers Community</u> – News, Ideas, & Support for Teachers

- What it provides: A teacher support network offering education news, classroom management tips, and peer engagement.
- Who is eligible: All teachers.

Local & In-Person Educator Networking Groups

6. <u>National Network of State Teachers of the Year (NNSTOY)</u> – Leadership & Collaboration for Educators

- What it provides: A national network of outstanding teachers focused on leadership development.
- Who is eligible: Current & past Teachers of the Year and dedicated educators.

7. <u>Meetup for Educators</u> – Find Local Teacher Networking Events

- What it provides: A platform to find local teacher meetups, networking events, and professional learning communities (PLCs).
- Who is eligible: All educators.

8. <u>TeachMeet</u> – Free, Informal Teacher Conferences**

- What it provides: Free unconference-style events where teachers share strategies, ideas, and classroom innovations.
- Who is eligible: All K-12 teachers.

9. <u>Kappa Delta Pi (KDP) Education Honor Society</u> – Leadership & Networking for Teachers

- What it provides: A global community of educators supporting leadership, research, and advocacy in education.
- Who is eligible: Educators, student teachers, and pre-service teachers.

10. <u>Oklahoma Education Association (OEA) Networking Groups</u> – Local Teacher Support & Advocacy**

- What it provides: Local networking, professional development, and advocacy resources for Oklahoma teachers.
- Who is eligible: Oklahoma educators.

Mentorship & Teacher Coaching Programs

11. <u>The New Teacher Project (TNTP)</u> – Coaching for New & Veteran Educators

- What it provides: One-on-one coaching, leadership training, and professional learning communities for teachers.
- Who is eligible: K-12 teachers & education leaders.

12. <u>The Teacher Mentor Network</u> – Virtual Mentorship for Educators

- What it provides: Free peer mentorship for teachers seeking career guidance, classroom management tips, and emotional support.
- Who is eligible: All teachers.

13. <u>Educators Rising</u> – Support for Aspiring & Early-Career Teachers

- What it provides: A network dedicated to mentoring future educators and earlycareer teachers.
- Who is eligible: Pre-service teachers and new educators.

14. National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) Mentorship Program – Coaching for Teachers Seeking NBCT Certification**

- What it provides: Free mentorship and guidance for teachers pursuing National Board Certification.
- Who is eligible: Educators working toward NBCT credentials.

15. <u>The Coaching Collective for Teachers</u> – Teacher Well-Being & Career Growth Coaching**

- What it provides: One-on-one career coaching, mindset training, and burnout prevention support.
- Who is eligible: Educators at all levels.

Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) & Peer-Led Training

16. <u>Learning Forward</u> – Professional Learning for Educators

- What it provides: Access to professional learning communities, leadership training, and instructional coaching.
- Who is eligible: K-12 teachers & school administrators.

17. <u>National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)</u> – Support for English & Literacy Educators

- What it provides: A professional learning network for ELA teachers, literacy educators, and reading specialists.
- Who is eligible: English, literacy, and reading educators.
- 18. <u>National Science Teaching Association (NSTA)</u> Community for STEM Teachers
 - What it provides: Professional learning & networking for STEM teachers.
 - Who is eligible: Science, technology, engineering, and math educators.
- 19. <u>Teachers Without Borders</u> Global Teacher Collaboration & Support**
 - What it provides: International professional learning networks & volunteer teaching opportunities for educators.
 - Who is eligible: Teachers looking for global networking & professional development.

20. The Educator Collaborative – Online Teacher Training & Collaboration**

- What it provides: Virtual teacher training, discussion forums, and collaborative projects.
- Who is eligible: All educators.

Section 15: Oklahoma-Specific Resources for Teachers

Oklahoma teachers face unique challenges and opportunities, and this section provides statespecific funding, grants, housing assistance, professional development, and advocacy resources tailored to educators in Oklahoma.

Financial Support & Grants for Oklahoma Educators

1. <u>Oklahoma Rural Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program</u> – Loan Assistance for Educators in Rural Areas

- What it provides: Loan forgiveness for teachers working in high-need rural schools in Oklahoma.
- Who is eligible: Teachers in designated rural districts.

2. <u>Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence Grants</u> – Classroom & Professional Development Grants

- What it provides: Funding for classroom innovation, student projects, and teacher PD.
- Who is eligible: K-12 public school teachers.

3. Oklahoma Energy Resources Board (OERB) Teacher Grants – STEM & Energy Education Funding

- What it provides: Grants for STEM education projects, energy-focused lesson plans, and teacher training.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators in Oklahoma.

4. Oklahoma State Department of Education Teacher Grants – State-Funded Grant Programs for Educators

- What it provides: A variety of state grants supporting classroom resources, technology, and PD.
- Who is eligible: Oklahoma K-12 teachers.

5. <u>The Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma</u> – Classroom & School Improvement Grants

- What it provides: Grants for classroom materials, school improvements, and innovative education programs.
- Who is eligible: Teachers & schools in Oklahoma.

6. <u>Oklahoma Humanities Council Grants</u> – Funding for History, Literature, & Social Studies Projects

- What it provides: Grants for teachers integrating humanities-based projects into their curriculum.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators.

Home & Mortgage Assistance for Oklahoma Teachers

7. <u>OHFA 4Teachers Homeownership Program</u> – Mortgage & Down Payment Assistance

- What it provides: Special mortgage rates and down payment assistance for Oklahoma teachers.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators buying a home in Oklahoma.
- 8. <u>Teacher Next Door Oklahoma Program</u> Discounted Home Purchase Program
 - What it provides: Up to \$8,000 in home-buying assistance for Oklahoma educators.
 - Who is eligible: K-12 public & private school teachers.

Professional Development & Teacher Training in Oklahoma

9. Oklahoma Teacher Connection – Mentorship & Training for New Educators

- What it provides: Training, mentorship, and professional development for pre-service and early-career teachers.
- Who is eligible: New and aspiring educators.

10. Oklahoma Council of Teachers of Mathematics (OCTM) – Support for Math Educators

- What it provides: Professional development, networking, and classroom resources for math teachers.
- Who is eligible: K-12 math educators.

11. Oklahoma Writing Project – Teacher Training in Writing Instruction

- What it provides: Free writing workshops, conferences, and training for teachers.
- Who is eligible: K-12 English & writing educators.

12. Oklahoma Science Teachers Association (OSTA) – PD for STEM & Science Teachers

- What it provides: Workshops, training, and networking for science teachers.
- Who is eligible: K-12 science educators in Oklahoma.

Classroom & School Resources for Oklahoma Teachers

13. Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom – Free Agriculture-Based Lesson Plans & Materials

- What it provides: Free lesson plans, classroom materials, and teacher training on agriculture education.
- Who is eligible: All K-12 teachers.

14. Oklahoma Public School Resource Center – Free Curriculum & Classroom Tools

- What it provides: Access to free digital lesson plans, assessments, and curriculum tools.
- Who is eligible: Public school educators.

15. Oklahoma Digital Teaching Resource Hub – Free Online Teaching Resources

- What it provides: A database of state-approved digital lesson plans, virtual teaching resources, and PD opportunities.
- Who is eligible: K-12 teachers in Oklahoma.

Teacher Recognition & Awards in Oklahoma

16. Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Award – Recognition & Grants for Outstanding Educators

- What it provides: State-wide recognition & financial awards for outstanding teachers.
- Who is eligible: Nominees must be full-time classroom teachers in Oklahoma.

17. <u>Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics & Science Teaching (PAEMST) –</u> <u>Oklahoma</u> – Awards for STEM Teachers

- What it provides: National recognition and \$10,000 awards for outstanding STEM educators.
- Who is eligible: K-12 math and science teachers in Oklahoma.

Advocacy & Legal Support for Oklahoma Teachers

18. Oklahoma Education Association (OEA) – Teacher Rights & Legal Support

- What it provides: Advocacy, legal support, and contract negotiation assistance for Oklahoma teachers.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators in Oklahoma.

19. Professional Oklahoma Educators (POE) – Legal Protection & Professional Support

- What it provides: Liability insurance, legal representation, and advocacy resources for educators.
- Who is eligible: All Oklahoma teachers.

20. Oklahoma Teachers Retirement System (OTRS) – Retirement & Pension Assistance

- What it provides: Retirement planning, pension benefits, and financial planning for Oklahoma educators.
- Who is eligible: Oklahoma public school teachers.

Section 16: Teacher Recognition & Awards

Teachers deserve recognition for their dedication, innovation, and impact on students. This section provides state, national, and subject-specific awards that honor outstanding educators and offer cash prizes, grants, and professional development opportunities.

National Teacher Awards & Recognition Programs

1. National Teacher of the Year Program – America's Most Prestigious Teacher Award

- What it provides: National recognition, professional development opportunities, and a platform for educational advocacy.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators in public or private schools.

2. <u>Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics & Science Teaching (PAEMST)</u> – STEM Educator Recognition

- What it provides: \$10,000 awards and recognition from the White House for outstanding STEM teachers.
- Who is eligible: K-12 math and science teachers.
- 3. <u>Milken Educator Awards</u> \$25,000 Cash Prizes for Exceptional Teachers
 - What it provides: \$25,000 awards for teachers making a significant impact in education.
 - Who is eligible: Early- to mid-career educators.

4. Horace Mann Award for Teaching Excellence – NEA Foundation Teaching Excellence Award

- What it provides: National recognition and cash prizes for teachers who demonstrate outstanding instructional skills.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators who are members of the NEA.

5. Voya Unsung Heroes Award – Grants for Innovative Classroom Projects

- What it provides: Up to \$25,000 in grants for teachers implementing unique and effective classroom projects.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators in public or private schools.

Oklahoma-Specific Teacher Awards

6. Oklahoma Teacher of the Year – Statewide Recognition for Oklahoma Educators

- What it provides: Statewide recognition and professional development opportunities for outstanding Oklahoma teachers.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators nominated by their school districts.

- 7. Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence Medal for Excellence Recognition & Cash Prizes
 - What it provides: \$5,000 cash awards for teachers who demonstrate instructional excellence.
 - Who is eligible: K-12 Oklahoma educators.

8. Oklahoma Energy Resources Board (OERB) Teacher Awards – Grants for Energy Education

- What it provides: Recognition and grants for teachers integrating energy-related lessons into their classrooms.
- Who is eligible: STEM and science teachers in Oklahoma.

9. Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom Teacher Awards – Recognizing Excellence in Agricultural Education

- What it provides: Cash awards for teachers who incorporate agriculture into their curriculum.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators in Oklahoma.

Subject-Specific & Specialized Teacher Awards

10. NEA Foundation Global Learning Fellowship – International Travel & PD for Teachers

- What it provides: A fully funded yearlong professional development program, including international travel for teachers interested in global learning.
- Who is eligible: Public school K-12 teachers.

11. National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) Awards – Grants & Recognition for Math Teachers

- What it provides: Funding and recognition for innovative teaching in mathematics.
- Who is eligible: K-12 math educators.

12. National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Teacher Awards – Honors for Literacy & English Teachers

- What it provides: Recognition and grants for outstanding literacy and English educators.
- Who is eligible: K-12 English and language arts teachers.

13. The Music Educator Award (Grammy Awards) – National Recognition for Music Teachers

- What it provides: \$10,000 cash award and a trip to the Grammy Awards for outstanding music educators.
- Who is eligible: K-12 music educators.

14. Excellence in Theatre Education Award – Recognition for Drama & Performing Arts Teachers

- What it provides: National recognition for teachers in theatre and performing arts education.
- Who is eligible: K-12 drama and performing arts educators.

15. Shell Science Teaching Award – Recognition for Innovative Science Teachers

- What it provides: A \$10,000 cash prize and national recognition for outstanding science educators.
- Who is eligible: K-12 STEM and science teachers.

Grants & Fellowships for Teacher Excellence

16. <u>Fund for Teachers Fellowship</u> – Grants for Teacher-Led Professional Development

- What it provides: Up to \$5,000 in grants for teachers to pursue personalized professional development experiences.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators.

17. <u>Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching</u> – Fully Funded International Teaching Exchanges

- What it provides: Travel grants for teachers to study or teach abroad as part of a cultural exchange.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators with at least 5 years of experience.

18. CSTA/Cutler-Bell Prize in High School Computing – Grants for Computer Science Educators

- What it provides: Cash awards for teachers leading innovation in computer science education.
- Who is eligible: K-12 computer science teachers.

19. James Madison Memorial Fellowship – Grants for History & Civics Educators

- What it provides: Up to \$24,000 in graduate school funding for teachers focusing on U.S. history and civics.
- Who is eligible: U.S. history, government, and civics teachers.

20. Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship – STEM Teacher Leadership Opportunity

- What it provides: A paid yearlong STEM education policy fellowship in Washington, D.C.
- Who is eligible: K-12 STEM educators.

Section 17: Funding & Grant Writing Assistance for Teachers

Winning a grant can transform a classroom, fund a new initiative, or provide much-needed resources—but finding and writing a successful application can be overwhelming. This section provides funding databases, grant-writing tools, and expert tips to help teachers secure funding more easily.

Grant Databases & Funding Opportunities

- 1. <u>GrantStation for Teachers</u> Comprehensive Grant Database
 - What it provides: A searchable database of grant opportunities for educators and schools.
 - Who is eligible: All K-12 educators.
- 2. <u>NEA Foundation Grants</u> Grants for Public School Teachers

- What it provides: Up to \$5,000 for classroom projects, PD, and school-wide initiatives.
- Who is eligible: Public school K-12 teachers.
- 3. <u>DonorsChoose</u> Crowdfunding for Classroom Projects
 - What it provides: A crowdfunding platform that allows teachers to raise money for classroom supplies, technology, and projects.
 - Who is eligible: K-12 public school teachers.
- 4. <u>AdoptAClassroom.org</u> Direct Classroom Donations
 - What it provides: A platform where teachers can create funding requests and donors can contribute directly to their classrooms.
 - Who is eligible: All U.S. K-12 teachers.
- 5. Kids in Need Foundation (KINF) Free School Supplies for Underfunded Schools
 - What it provides: Classroom supply grants and free materials for teachers in highneed schools.
 - Who is eligible: Educators in low-income districts.
- 6. <u>The Snapdragon Book Foundation Grant</u> Funding for Classroom Libraries
 - What it provides: Grants for buying books and enhancing school libraries.
 - Who is eligible: K-12 educators.
- 7. Dollar General Literacy Foundation Grants Literacy & Reading Program Funding
 - What it provides: Grants for reading, literacy, and book-related initiatives in schools.
 - Who is eligible: K-12 schools and nonprofit literacy programs.
- 8. <u>Limeades for Learning (Sonic Drive-In)</u> Sonic Teacher Grants
 - What it provides: Funding for teacher projects and classroom needs.
 - Who is eligible: Public and charter school educators.

Grant Writing Resources & Training

9. <u>National Education Association (NEA) Grant Writing Guide</u> – Step-by-Step Application Assistance

- What it provides: Guides, sample applications, and funding strategies for teachers applying for grants.
- Who is eligible: Public school teachers.

10. <u>The Grant Writing Training Foundation</u> – Online Grant Writing Workshops

- What it provides: Self-paced online courses to help teachers write stronger, more successful grants.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators and school leaders.

11. <u>Grant Professionals Association (GPA)</u> – Membership & Grant Writing Support

- What it provides: Access to grant writing experts, resources, and networking.
- Who is eligible: Educators and administrators who regularly apply for grants.

12. <u>The Chronicle of Philanthropy Grant Writing Webinars</u> – Free & Low-Cost Grant Writing Training

- What it provides: Live and recorded webinars on grant writing best practices.
- Who is eligible: Teachers and school administrators.
- 13. <u>The Grant Writers' Seminars & Workshops</u> Specialized Grant Writing Coaching
 - What it provides: Workshops that teach educators how to craft compelling grant applications.
 - Who is eligible: K-12 teachers, administrators, and nonprofit educators.

Grant Application Assistance & Editing Services

- 14. <u>The Grantsmanship Center</u> Personalized Grant Writing Help
 - What it provides: One-on-one grant writing coaching and proposal editing.
 - Who is eligible: Teachers applying for school or classroom grants.

15. <u>The Grant Writers' Network</u> – Support & Review Services

- What it provides: Grant application reviews and professional editing services.
- Who is eligible: Teachers and schools looking for expert feedback before submitting grants.

16. <u>GetEdFunding</u> – Free Grant Search & Application Assistance

- What it provides: A searchable database of grants with tips on writing successful proposals.
- Who is eligible: All K-12 educators.
- 17. <u>The Foundation Center's GrantSpace</u> Grant Writing Training & Support
 - What it provides: Workshops, video tutorials, and personalized support for grant applications.
 - Who is eligible: Teachers, schools, and nonprofit educators.

18. Edutopia's Grant Writing Tips for Teachers – Best Practices & Application Strategies

- What it provides: Expert tips on writing compelling grant proposals.
- Who is eligible: All educators.

Scholarships & Fellowships for Teacher Development

19. Fund for Teachers – Grants for Teacher-Led PD

- What it provides: Up to \$5,000 for teachers to pursue professional development experiences.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators.

20. <u>James Madison Memorial Fellowship</u> – Graduate School Funding for Civics & History Teachers

- What it provides: Up to \$24,000 for graduate studies in U.S. history or civics education.
- Who is eligible: K-12 history and social studies teachers.

Section 18: Teacher Leadership & Mentoring Programs

Strong teacher leadership and mentorship programs help educators develop professionally, share expertise, and support one another throughout their careers. This section provides leadership training, mentorship opportunities, and fellowships that empower teachers to become education leaders and change-makers.

National Teacher Leadership & Fellowship Programs

1. <u>Teach Plus Leadership Program</u> – Advocacy & Leadership Training for Teachers

- What it provides: Leadership development, policy training, and opportunities to influence education reform.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators interested in education policy and advocacy.

2. <u>National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) Leadership Programs</u> – Advanced Certification & Leadership Opportunities

- What it provides: Mentorship, professional development, and leadership training for teachers seeking National Board Certification.
- Who is eligible: Educators working toward NBCT credentials.

3. <u>Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching</u> – International Teaching Exchange

- What it provides: Fully funded international teaching fellowships for educators to study, teach, and conduct research abroad.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators with 5+ years of experience.

4. <u>Education Pioneers Fellowship</u> – Leadership Training for Teachers Seeking Career Growth

- What it provides: Paid fellowships for teachers looking to transition into education leadership roles.
- Who is eligible: Educators with **3**+ years of experience in teaching or education-related fields.

5. National Teacher Leadership Network (NTLN) – Peer Collaboration & Leadership Training

- What it provides: A professional learning community where teachers can grow as mentors, instructional coaches, and education leaders.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators interested in leadership.

Teacher Mentoring & Peer Coaching Programs

6. <u>The Teacher Mentor Network</u> – Virtual Peer Mentorship for Educators

- What it provides: A free mentoring program connecting new teachers with experienced educators.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators looking for mentorship and career guidance.
- 7. <u>Educators Rising Mentorship Program</u> Support for New & Aspiring Teachers
 - What it provides: Mentorship and leadership development for future and early-career educators.
 - Who is eligible: Pre-service teachers and first-year educators.

8. <u>The New Teacher Project (TNTP) Teaching Fellows</u> – Coaching & Leadership Development for Teachers

- What it provides: One-on-one coaching, leadership training, and mentorship for teachers.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators and school leaders.

9. <u>The Coaching Collective for Teachers</u> – Career Coaching & Leadership Support

- What it provides: Individualized coaching for career growth, mindset development, and teacher well-being.
- Who is eligible: K-12 teachers.

10. <u>National Network of State Teachers of the Year (NNSTOY) Mentorship</u> – Leadership Coaching for Award-Winning Educators

- What it provides: Coaching, mentorship, and networking opportunities for state Teachers of the Year and finalists.
- Who is eligible: Educators who have received statewide or national teaching recognition.

School & District Leadership Development Programs

11. <u>Harvard Graduate School of Education Leadership Programs</u> – School Leadership Training

- What it provides: Executive leadership development for teachers transitioning into administrative roles.
- Who is eligible: Educators preparing for principalship, district leadership, or policy roles.

12. The Principal Pipeline Initiative – Leadership Development for Teachers Becoming Principals

- What it provides: A structured training program to support teachers moving into school leadership.
- Who is eligible: Educators interested in becoming school principals.

13. <u>The Leadership Academy for Teachers</u> – Coaching for Aspiring Education Leaders

- What it provides: Leadership training focused on equity-driven school leadership.
- Who is eligible: Teachers looking to advance into instructional leadership roles.

Oklahoma-Specific Leadership & Mentorship Opportunities

14. Oklahoma Teacher Leadership Academy – Professional Growth for Oklahoma Educators

- What it provides: State-funded leadership training for Oklahoma teachers.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators in Oklahoma.

15. <u>Oklahoma Educators Leadership Program (OELP)</u> – Leadership Training for Educators

- What it provides: Year-long leadership development courses for teachers looking to take on bigger roles in education.
- Who is eligible: Oklahoma educators.

16. <u>Oklahoma Future Educators Association (OFEA)</u> – Supporting Aspiring & Early-Career Teachers

- What it provides: A network for aspiring educators providing mentorship and career guidance.
- Who is eligible: Pre-service teachers and new educators in Oklahoma.

Fellowships & Grants for Teacher Leadership Development

17. <u>Fund for Teachers Leadership Grants</u> – Professional Growth Funding for Teachers

- What it provides: Up to \$5,000 for teachers to design their own leadership development experiences.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators.

18. Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship – STEM Teacher Leadership Opportunity

- What it provides: A yearlong, paid fellowship for STEM teachers to work in education policy roles in Washington, D.C.
- Who is eligible: K-12 STEM educators.

19. <u>Teach for All Global Teacher Leadership Fellowship</u> – International Teacher Leadership Development

- What it provides: A fellowship program that helps teachers develop leadership skills while collaborating with educators worldwide.
- Who is eligible: Teachers with a strong interest in global education leadership.

20. <u>James Madison Memorial Fellowship</u> – Graduate School Grants for Civics & History Teachers

- What it provides: Up to \$24,000 in graduate school funding for teachers focusing on history, government, and civics education.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators teaching history, civics, or social studies.

Section 19: Technology & Digital Tools for Educators

Technology is transforming education, and teachers need the best tools, software, and digital resources to enhance their classrooms. This section provides free and discounted edtech tools, professional training, and grants for technology integration to help educators stay ahead in the digital age.

Free & Discounted EdTech Tools for Teachers

- 1. <u>Google for Education</u> Free Google Tools & Training for Teachers
 - What it provides: Free access to Google Classroom, Docs, Slides, and Drive for lesson planning, collaboration, and remote learning.
 - Who is eligible: All K-12 educators.
- 2. Microsoft Education Tools Free Office 365 & Teacher Training
 - What it provides: Free Microsoft Office 365 (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Teams) and training resources.
 - Who is eligible: All K-12 teachers.

3. Canva for Education – Free Graphic Design Tool for Educators

- What it provides: Free Pro version of Canva for creating classroom materials, presentations, and student projects.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators.

4. <u>Khan Academy</u> – Free Video-Based Learning for Students

- What it provides: A free library of instructional videos and lesson plans in math, science, history, and more.
- Who is eligible: All educators and students.

5. <u>Edmodo</u> – Free Classroom Communication & Collaboration Platform

- What it provides: A social learning platform for teachers to engage students, share resources, and communicate with parents.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators.

6. <u>Nearpod</u> – Interactive Lessons & Digital Assessments

- What it provides: A free version of Nearpod for engaging, interactive classroom presentations.
- Who is eligible: All K-12 teachers.

STEM & Coding Tools for Teachers

7. Scratch for Educators – Free Coding Platform for Kids

- What it provides: A block-based coding tool that makes programming accessible for students.
- Who is eligible: K-12 teachers, especially in STEM and computer science.

8. <u>Code.org</u> – Free Coding & Computer Science Curriculum

- What it provides: Self-paced coding courses and lesson plans for teaching computer science.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators.

9. Tynker for Schools – Free & Discounted Coding Lessons

- What it provides: STEM and coding curriculum for classroom use.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators.

10. <u>NASA Education</u> – Free Space Science Resources for Teachers

- What it provides: STEM lesson plans, live webinars, and teacher training focused on space science.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators.

Online Learning & Professional Development in EdTech

11. <u>ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education)</u> – Digital Learning Training for Teachers

- What it provides: EdTech certifications, digital teaching strategies, and conferences.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators.

12. EdX Teacher Training – Free & Low-Cost Online PD Courses

- What it provides: Self-paced courses from Harvard, MIT, and Stanford on digital learning and education technology.
- Who is eligible: All educators.

13. <u>Coursera for Teachers</u> – Online PD from Top Universities

- What it provides: Free & low-cost certifications in educational technology, classroom management, and more.
- Who is eligible: K-12 teachers.

Assistive Technology for Special Education & Accessibility

14. <u>Bookshare</u> – Free Digital Books for Students with Disabilities

- What it provides: Accessible e-books and audiobooks for students with reading challenges.
- Who is eligible: K-12 special education teachers.

15. Read&Write by Texthelp – Literacy & Accessibility Support for Students

- What it provides: A speech-to-text and reading assistant for students who struggle with literacy.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators (free version available).

16. <u>CAST UDL Tools</u> – Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Resources

- What it provides: Assistive technology tools and accessibility training for educators.
- Who is eligible: All teachers.

Tech Grants & Funding for Classroom Technology

17. Voya Unsung Heroes Grant – Up to \$25,000 for Innovative EdTech Projects

• What it provides: Technology funding for classroom projects that incorporate digital learning.

• Who is eligible: K-12 educators.

18. Oklahoma Education Technology Trust (OETT) – Tech Grants for Oklahoma Schools

- What it provides: Funding for technology integration in Oklahoma classrooms.
- Who is eligible: K-12 teachers and schools in Oklahoma.

19. Verizon Innovative Learning Schools – Tech & STEM Support for Underserved Schools

- What it provides: Technology funding and STEM curriculum development for highneed schools.
- Who is eligible: K-12 teachers in underserved schools.

20. Best Buy Teach Grants – Grants for Classroom Technology

- What it provides: Funding for technology tools, digital learning projects, and techbased classroom innovation.
- Who is eligible: K-12 teachers and schools.

Section 20: Extracurricular & Enrichment Grants for Teachers

Extracurricular activities enhance student learning, creativity, and engagement, but many schools struggle to fund programs like arts, music, sports, STEM clubs, and field trips. This section provides grants and funding opportunities for teachers looking to expand enrichment opportunities for students.

General Extracurricular & Enrichment Grants

1. Lowe's Toolbox for Education – Up to \$5,000 for School Improvement & Enrichment Projects

- What it provides: Funding for extracurricular clubs, school gardens, and studentdriven projects.
- Who is eligible: K-12 public schools.

2. Target Field Trip Grants – Grants for Educational Field Trips

- What it provides: Up to \$700 for transportation, admission, and trip-related expenses.
- Who is eligible: K-12 teachers planning off-campus learning experiences.

3. The Walmart Community Grant Program – Local School & Community Enrichment Funding

- What it provides: \$250 to \$5,000 for school-based enrichment programs.
- Who is eligible: Schools and community-based organizations.
- 4. Dollar General Youth Literacy Grants Funding for Literacy & Reading Enrichment
 - What it provides: Grants for after-school reading programs, book clubs, and literacy initiatives.
 - Who is eligible: K-12 schools and literacy organizations.
- 5. <u>The Snapdragon Book Foundation Grant</u> Funding for Classroom Libraries
 - What it provides: Grants for buying books and expanding school libraries.
 - Who is eligible: K-12 educators.

Arts, Music, & Performing Arts Grants

6. The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Grants – Funding for School Arts Programs

- What it provides: Support for school music, theatre, and visual arts programs.
- Who is eligible: K-12 teachers in arts, drama, and music education.

7. The Grammy Music Educator Award – \$10,000 for Outstanding Music Teachers

- What it provides: Cash prizes for music teachers who demonstrate exceptional impact.
- Who is eligible: K-12 music educators.

8. <u>VH1 Save the Music Foundation</u> – Grants for School Music Programs

• What it provides: Instrument donations and funding for music education.

- Who is eligible: Public school music teachers.
- 9. <u>Disney Musicals in Schools</u> Free Musical Theatre Program for Schools
 - What it provides: A fully-funded musical theatre program with free scripts, scores, and teacher training.
 - Who is eligible: K-12 public school teachers.

10. Crayola Creative Leadership Grants – Funding for Art & Creativity Initiatives

- What it provides: Up to \$2,500 in funding and Crayola product donations for creative projects.
- Who is eligible: K-12 art and general education teachers.

STEM & Robotics Enrichment Grants

11. Lemelson-MIT InvenTeams Grants – Up to \$10,000 for Student STEM & Innovation Projects

- What it provides: Funding for student-led invention and engineering projects.
- Who is eligible: K-12 STEM teachers.

12. FIRST Robotics Grants – Support for School Robotics Teams

- What it provides: Funding, mentoring, and materials for robotics competitions.
- Who is eligible: K-12 robotics and engineering educators.

13. Society of Women Engineers (SWE) Grants – STEM Grants for Female-Led Initiatives

- What it provides: Grants for STEM clubs, competitions, and programs that support female students in STEM.
- Who is eligible: K-12 teachers leading STEM education for female students.

14. <u>The National Science Foundation (NSF) STEM Grants</u> – Funding for Science & Technology Programs

• What it provides: Large-scale STEM funding for school programs, teacher training, and classroom innovation.

• Who is eligible: K-12 schools and STEM educators.

Sports & Physical Education Grants

15. <u>Good Sports Equipment Grants</u> – Free Sports Equipment for Schools

- What it provides: Donations of brand-new sports equipment, apparel, and footwear for underfunded schools.
- Who is eligible: K-12 schools with a financial need.

16. Baseball Tomorrow Fund – Grants for School Baseball & Softball Programs

- What it provides: Funding for field renovations, equipment, and coaching programs.
- Who is eligible: K-12 schools with baseball/softball programs.

17. <u>US Soccer Foundation Grants</u> – Funding for School Soccer Programs

- What it provides: Funding for soccer fields, coaching programs, and youth soccer initiatives.
- Who is eligible: K-12 schools and community programs.

18. NFL Play 60 Grants – Support for Youth Fitness & Sports Programs

- What it provides: Grants for after-school fitness programs, physical education, and youth sports leagues.
- Who is eligible: K-12 teachers and schools.

Outdoor Education & Environmental Grants

19. National Park Trust Every Kid Outdoors Grants – Funding for Outdoor Field Trips

- What it provides: Funding for national park visits, environmental education, and outdoor learning experiences.
- Who is eligible: K-12 teachers planning nature-focused field trips.

20. Captain Planet Foundation Grants – Support for Environmental & Sustainability Education

- What it provides: Funding for student-driven sustainability and conservation projects.
- Who is eligible: K-12 teachers leading eco-friendly initiatives.

Section 21: Scholarships for Teachers & Future Educators

Furthering education and professional development is important for teachers, but tuition costs can be a barrier. This section provides scholarships, fellowships, and tuition assistance programs to help teachers pursue advanced degrees, certifications, and continuing education.

Graduate & Continuing Education Scholarships for Teachers

- 1. Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship Up to \$40,000 for Graduate Studies
 - What it provides: Full or partial tuition funding for teachers pursuing an advanced degree.
 - Who is eligible: Teachers enrolling in master's or doctoral programs.
- 2. James Madison Memorial Fellowship \$24,000 for History & Civics Teachers
 - What it provides: Graduate school tuition for teachers specializing in history, government, or civics.
 - Who is eligible: K-12 history and social studies educators.
- 3. <u>Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans</u> Graduate Tuition Support
 - What it provides: Up to \$90,000 for tuition and living expenses for first-generation American educators.
 - Who is eligible: Immigrant and first-generation American teachers.
- 4. Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship STEM Teaching Scholarships
 - What it provides: Funding for teachers pursuing a master's degree in STEM education.
 - Who is eligible: K-12 math and science educators.

5. <u>The Knowles Teaching Fellowship</u> – Financial Support & Mentorship for New STEM Teachers

- What it provides: A five-year fellowship program with funding, mentorship, and PD opportunities.
- Who is eligible: Early-career STEM educators.

Scholarships for Aspiring & Pre-Service Teachers

6. TEACH Grant Program – Up to \$4,000 for Future Teachers

- What it provides: Tuition assistance for students committed to teaching in high-need fields.
- Who is eligible: College students enrolled in teacher preparation programs.

7. <u>Ron Brown Scholar Program</u> – Scholarships for Minority Educators

- What it provides: Tuition funding for Black/African American students pursuing education careers.
- Who is eligible: High school seniors entering education degree programs.

8. <u>Hispanic Scholarship Fund</u> – Funding for Latino Future Teachers

- What it provides: Scholarships for Hispanic/Latino students pursuing a career in education.
- Who is eligible: Undergraduate and graduate students studying education.

9. The Golden Apple Scholars Program – Tuition Assistance for Aspiring Teachers

- What it provides: Scholarships and mentorship for high-achieving students planning to become teachers.
- Who is eligible: High school seniors and college students entering education programs.

10. <u>The Oklahoma Future Educators Scholarship</u> – State-Based Funding for Aspiring Teachers

• What it provides: Grants and scholarships for students pursuing education degrees in Oklahoma.

• Who is eligible: Oklahoma residents enrolled in teacher preparation programs.

Diversity & Equity Scholarships for Educators

11. <u>The Gates Millennium Scholars Program</u> – Full Scholarships for Minority Educators

- What it provides: Full tuition coverage for minority students pursuing education careers.
- Who is eligible: African American, Hispanic, Asian Pacific Islander, and Native American students.

12. Native American Education Grant – Funding for Indigenous Educators

- What it provides: Scholarships for Native American students pursuing education careers.
- Who is eligible: Enrolled members of federally recognized tribes.

13. The Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship – Funding for Women in STEM Education

- What it provides: Scholarships for female educators specializing in environmental and STEM fields.
- Who is eligible: Women pursuing graduate degrees in STEM education.

Scholarships for Special Education & High-Need Areas

14. <u>The National Association of Special Education Teachers (NASET) Scholarship</u> – Funding for Special Ed Teachers

- What it provides: Grants and tuition assistance for teachers specializing in special education.
- Who is eligible: Educators entering special education fields.

15. <u>The CEC Yes I Can Scholarship</u> – Grants for Special Education Majors

- What it provides: Financial assistance for students preparing for careers in special education.
- Who is eligible: College students studying special education.

16. The National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) Scholarships – STEM Education Scholarships

- What it provides: Funding for teachers earning degrees in science education.
- Who is eligible: Undergraduate and graduate STEM educators.

Loan Forgiveness & Tuition Reimbursement for Teachers

17. Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program – Up to \$17,500 in Loan Forgiveness

- What it provides: Loan forgiveness for teachers working in low-income schools.
- Who is eligible: Teachers with Direct Subsidized or Unsubsidized Loans.

18. Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) – Full Loan Forgiveness After 10 Years

- What it provides: Complete federal loan forgiveness for teachers after 120 qualifying payments.
- Who is eligible: Full-time educators in public schools.

19. <u>Oklahoma Rural Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program</u> – Loan Assistance for Rural Teachers

- What it provides: Loan forgiveness for educators working in rural or high-need areas.
- Who is eligible: Oklahoma K-12 educators.

20. Perkins Loan Teacher Cancellation – 100% Loan Cancellation for Eligible Teachers

- What it provides: Full loan cancellation for teachers in qualifying schools.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators in special education, STEM, and low-income schools.

Section 22: Additional Funding Opportunities for Teachers

Beyond traditional grants and scholarships, there are many other funding sources available to teachers, including microgrants, crowdfunding platforms, corporate sponsorships, and educator fellowships. This section provides alternative funding opportunities for educators looking to expand resources, develop new programs, and access financial relief.

Microgrants & Small Funding Programs for Educators

1. <u>Fund for Teachers</u> – Grants for Teacher-Led Professional Development

- What it provides: Up to \$5,000 for teachers to design their own professional learning experiences.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators.

2. <u>Pets in the Classroom</u> – \$125 for Classroom Pet Supplies

- What it provides: Funding for pet care, food, and habitat materials for educators who use classroom pets for student engagement.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators.

3. <u>LilySarahGrace Fund</u> – Arts & Creativity Grants for Educators

- What it provides: Up to \$1,000 for teachers using the arts to promote creative thinking in underserved schools.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators in Title I schools.

4. Association of American Educators (AAE) Classroom Grant – \$500 for Classroom Projects

- What it provides: Funds for classroom resources, materials, and educational tools.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators.

5. <u>No Kid Hungry Breakfast Grants</u> – Funding for School Meal Programs

- What it provides: Funding to support breakfast programs in schools with high poverty rates.
- Who is eligible: Schools and educators implementing food programs.

Crowdfunding & Peer-Funded Platforms for Teachers

6. <u>DonorsChoose</u> – Crowdfunding for Classroom Projects

- What it provides: A crowdfunding platform where teachers can request materials, technology, or project funding.
- Who is eligible: K-12 public school educators.

7. AdoptAClassroom.org – Direct Classroom Donations

- What it provides: A teacher-specific fundraising platform that connects classrooms with donors.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators.

8. <u>ClassWish</u> – Online Fundraising for School Supplies

- What it provides: A donation-based platform where teachers can create wish lists for classroom needs.
- Who is eligible: K-12 teachers in public and private schools.

9. GoFundMe for Education – Personalized Fundraising for Teachers

- What it provides: A general crowdfunding platform for teachers raising funds for classroom expenses, field trips, or projects.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators.

10. PTA Grants & Fundraising – Parent-Led Fundraising & Classroom Grants

- What it provides: Funding through school PTAs for classroom projects, field trips, and supplies.
- Who is eligible: Schools with active PTAs.

Corporate Sponsorships & Donation Programs

11. Limeades for Learning (Sonic Drive-In) – Teacher Grant Program

- What it provides: Funding for classroom projects, technology, and learning tools.
- Who is eligible: Public school educators.

12. Walmart Community Grant Program – Up to \$5,000 for Local Schools

- What it provides: Financial support for school programs, educational projects, and teacher-led initiatives.
- Who is eligible: K-12 schools and educators.
- 13. Best Buy Teach Grants Funding for Classroom Technology
 - What it provides: Grants for technology-based projects, digital learning, and STEM education.
 - Who is eligible: K-12 teachers.

14. Lowe's Toolbox for Education – Up to \$5,000 for School Improvement

- What it provides: Funds for outdoor learning spaces, STEM labs, and classroom renovations.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators.

15. <u>BIC Bright Futures Program</u> – Free School Supplies & Funding

- What it provides: School supply donations and funding for literacy-based projects.
- Who is eligible: K-12 teachers.

Fellowships & Stipends for Educators

16. Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship – Yearlong STEM Fellowship in D.C.

- What it provides: A paid fellowship for STEM educators to work on education policy and research.
- Who is eligible: K-12 STEM teachers.

17. <u>The Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline (FAD)</u> – Research Funding for Educators

- What it provides: Grants for research in education and instructional innovation.
- Who is eligible: K-12 and higher education faculty.

18. <u>The Global Teacher Prize</u> – \$1 Million Award for an Outstanding Educator

- What it provides: A \$1 million award for a teacher who has made a significant global impact in education.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators worldwide.

19. <u>Teach for America Rural Fellowship</u> – Paid Fellowships for Educators in Underserved Areas

- What it provides: Grants and salary support for teachers working in rural communities.
- Who is eligible: K-12 teachers in high-need districts.

20. The Spencer Foundation Research Grants – Funding for Educational Research

- What it provides: Funding for research projects focused on improving education systems.
- Who is eligible: Educators and education researchers.

Section 23: Additional Funding Opportunities for Teachers

Many teachers **struggle to access funding** for classroom supplies, professional development, or student experiences. While **traditional grants and scholarships** are great, there are **other creative ways to secure financial support.**

Below, we've compiled a range of funding opportunities, including microgrants, crowdfunding platforms, corporate sponsorships, and fellowships to help teachers get the resources they need.

📌 Microgrants & Fast-Funding Opportunities

(These grants are typically easier to apply for and have quick turnaround times!)

- 1. <u>Fund for Teachers</u> Teacher-Led Professional Development Grants
 - What it provides: Up to \$5,000 for teachers to design their own learning experiences, travel, or training.

- Who is eligible: K-12 educators.
- 2. Pets in the Classroom Small Grants for Classroom Pets
 - What it provides: Up to \$125 for teachers to buy or maintain a classroom pet for educational purposes.
 - Who is eligible: K-12 educators.

3. <u>The LilySarahGrace Fund</u> – Creativity & Arts Microgrants

- What it provides: Up to \$1,000 for teachers using the arts to promote creative thinking.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators in Title I schools.

4. Association of American Educators (AAE) Classroom Grant – Quick Funding for School Projects

- What it provides: \$500 microgrants for teachers needing materials, technology, or classroom resources.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators.

5. No Kid Hungry Breakfast Grants – School Meal & Nutrition Support

- What it provides: Funding to help expand school breakfast programs in underserved areas.
- Who is eligible: Schools and educators implementing food programs.

***** Crowdfunding & Peer-Funded Platforms for Teachers

(Raise money directly from your community & supporters!)

6. <u>DonorsChoose</u> – The Most Popular Crowdfunding for Teachers

- What it provides: A fundraising platform where teachers can request supplies, books, technology, or experiences for students.
- Who is eligible: K-12 public school teachers.

7. AdoptAClassroom.org – Direct Donations to Classrooms

- What it provides: A teacher-specific fundraising platform that connects classrooms with donors.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators.
- 8. <u>ClassWish</u> Fundraise for Supplies & Materials
 - What it provides: A crowdfunding platform where teachers can create wish lists for classroom needs.
 - Who is eligible: K-12 public and private school educators.
- 9. GoFundMe for Education Personalized Teacher Fundraising
 - What it provides: A general crowdfunding platform where teachers can fundraise for classroom expenses, field trips, or projects.
 - Who is eligible: K-12 educators.
- 10. Facebook Fundraisers Use Social Media to Raise Funds
 - What it provides: A fundraising tool within Facebook where teachers can share donation campaigns.
 - Who is eligible: Any educator with a verified school account.

X Corporate Sponsorships & Matching Gift Programs

(Many businesses offer funds to schools & educators—take advantage!)

11. Limeades for Learning (Sonic Drive-In) – Teacher Grant Program

- What it provides: Funding for classroom projects, technology, and student learning experiences.
- Who is eligible: Public school educators.

12. Walmart Community Grant Program – Up to \$5,000 for Schools

- What it provides: Funds for educational projects, classroom needs, and teacher initiatives.
- Who is eligible: K-12 schools and educators.

13. Best Buy Teach Grants – Classroom Tech Grants

- What it provides: Funding for technology, digital learning tools, and STEM projects.
- Who is eligible: K-12 teachers.

14. <u>Target Education Grants</u> – Funding for Field Trips & School Programs

- What it provides: Grants to help cover transportation, admission fees, and educational trips.
- Who is eligible: K-12 educators.

15. <u>Amazon Future Engineer</u> – Tech & STEM Learning Grants

- What it provides: Funding for coding & computer science initiatives in schools.
- Who is eligible: K-12 STEM educators.

***** Fellowships & Paid Leadership Opportunities

(Grow as an educator while getting paid!)

16. Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship – Yearlong Paid STEM Fellowship

- What it provides: A paid year in Washington, D.C., working on education policy & research.
- Who is eligible: K-12 STEM educators.

17. <u>Teach for All Global Leadership Fellowship</u> – International Teacher Leadership Program

- What it provides: A fellowship program that helps teachers develop leadership skills while collaborating with educators worldwide.
- Who is eligible: Teachers with a strong interest in global education leadership.

18. <u>The Global Teacher Prize</u> – \$1 Million Award for an Outstanding Educator

• What it provides: A \$1 million award for a teacher who has made a significant global impact in education.

• Who is eligible: K-12 educators worldwide.

Section 24: Navigating Grant Applications – Step-by-Step all required attachments?

How OCE Can Help You Apply for Grants

Need help with a grant? OCE provides **free grant writing support** to Oklahoma educators!

✓ Grant Research – We help teachers find the right funding opportunities.

✓ Proposal Editing & Review – We'll review drafts & suggest improvements.

V Step-by-Step Assistance – Our team will walk you through the entire process.

Get grant help today: info@okcitizensedu.org

Uisit us online: <u>okcitizensedu.org</u>

Best Practices for Grant Writing (Expanded & Fully Structured)

Securing grants is a powerful way to obtain funding for classroom projects, professional development, and school-wide initiatives. However, winning grants requires more than just filling out an application. It involves strategy, storytelling, and aligning with funders' priorities.

Below is a **fully developed best practices guide** that will help educators **write stronger grant applications, increase their chances of success, and avoid common pitfalls.**

Best Practices for Grant Writing

Securing grants can be a powerful way to obtain funding for your classroom, school projects, and professional development. However, successfully writing and winning grants requires an understanding of how to frame your application in a way that aligns with funders' expectations. Below are some best practices to help maximize your success:

1. Understand the Grant Requirements

- Carefully read all grant guidelines and eligibility criteria before applying.
- Pay close attention to deadlines, required documentation, and funding restrictions.
- Ensure that your project or funding need aligns with the grant's purpose.

2. Use the Right Terminology

• Grant applications often use specific terminology that signals alignment with the funder's goals.

• Use action-oriented, professional language that demonstrates a clear need and plan.

• Reference key educational priorities, such as student achievement, equity, innovation, and community impact.

3. Answer Every Question Completely and Clearly

• Each question is crafted to evaluate whether your application meets the grant's goals.

- Break down questions into their components to ensure you are fully addressing them.
- Use bullet points or structured responses when appropriate for clarity.

4. Tell a Compelling Story with Data

• Describe the problem your grant proposal seeks to address in a way that resonates with the reviewer.

• Use student outcomes, demographic data, or classroom-specific needs to illustrate impact.

• Balance storytelling with factual, evidence-based reasoning.

5. Follow a Logical Structure

A strong grant proposal typically includes:

- Statement of Need Why is this funding essential? Who will benefit?
- **Project Description** What will you do with the funding? How will it be implemented?
- Goals & Objectives What measurable outcomes will this grant support?
- Budget & Justification Clearly outline how the funds will be used.
- Evaluation Plan How will you assess success and track progress?

6. Seek Out Local and State Grant Opportunities

• Local and state-level grants often have fewer applicants and may be more accessible than national grants.

• Look for grants offered by local businesses, community foundations, state educational

organizations, and professional associations.

• Some national organizations also offer state-level grants that may have different criteria.

7. Leverage Grant Writing Workshops & Resources

• Attending a grant writing workshop can provide invaluable tips and templates for successful applications.

• Many education organizations and professional associations offer free or low-cost training on grant writing.

• Connecting with a mentor or experienced grant writer can improve your applications.

8. Have Someone Review Your Application

• A second pair of eyes can help catch unclear language, typos, or missing information.

• Ask a colleague, administrator, or experienced grant recipient to provide feedback.

• If possible, have a former grant reviewer or someone familiar with the funder's priorities review your proposal.

9. Keep a Record of Successful Grants

• Save copies of winning grant applications as references for future proposals.

- Keep track of deadlines for recurring grants to apply annually.
- Document feedback from funders to refine future applications.

By applying these best practices, educators can increase their chances of securing funding that supports students, classrooms, and professional growth. Grant writing is a skill that improves with practice, and with the right approach, educators can unlock valuable funding opportunities.

You said:

Okay now do the last section ChatGPT said:

Section 25: How to Advocate for More Education Funding

Securing **adequate funding for education** is an ongoing challenge, but **teachers and educators have a powerful voice**in advocating for policy changes, increased budgets, and stronger public support.

This section provides **actionable steps** to help teachers **advocate effectively** for better funding at the **local**, **state**, **and national levels**.

1. Educate Your Community on the Need for More Funding

• Talk to parents, families, and local organizations about how funding shortages impact students.

• Use real-life examples from your classroom to illustrate the effects of underfunding.

• Provide data on teacher shortages, class sizes, and lack of resources to show the bigger picture.

Action Step: Host a **community conversation or school meeting** to discuss the need for funding and ways to take action.

2. Engage with Local and State Policymakers

• Contact **your state legislators, school board members, and education officials** to express concerns about school funding.

• Attend **school board and budget meetings** to voice the need for better financial support for teachers and schools.

• Join advocacy groups that lobby for increased education funding.

Action Step: Use **OCE's pre-written email templates** to send a **funding request** to your local representatives.

3. Use Social Media and Public Awareness Campaigns

• Post about **funding issues affecting your school** using hashtags like **#FundOurSchools #SupportTeachers.**

• Share personal stories, videos, and statistics to engage **parents**, **students**, **and community leaders**.

• Write a **letter to the editor** in your local newspaper highlighting the **need for increased school funding.**

Action Step: Organize a social media campaign or virtual town hall to educate your community and call for action.

4. Build Alliances with Other Teachers & Organizations

- Work with other educators, unions, and advocacy groups to push for increased funding.
- Partner with **businesses**, **nonprofits**, **and community leaders** who support education.
- Attend state and national education advocacy events and conferences.

Action Step: Sign up for OCE's **Educator Advocacy Network** to receive updates on funding initiatives and advocacy efforts.

5. Advocate for Long-Term Policy Changes

• Push for statewide and national policies that prioritize education funding.

• Encourage lawmakers to support legislation that increases teacher pay, provides more classroom resources, and funds professional development.

• Stay informed on upcoming education budget proposals and bills.

Action Step: Subscribe to **OCE's education policy newsletter** to stay updated on funding legislation.

6. Join OCE's Advocacy Efforts & Get Support

OCE is committed to **helping teachers advocate for better funding** by providing resources, templates, and direct support.

✓ **Pre-written letters to lawmakers** – Simply personalize and send!

✓ Step-by-step advocacy guides – Learn how to navigate funding discussions.

✓ Live training sessions & workshops – Get expert advice on making an impact.

Join OCE's Advocacy Network: info@okcitizensedu.org

Wisit Our Website for Advocacy Tools: okcitizensedu.org