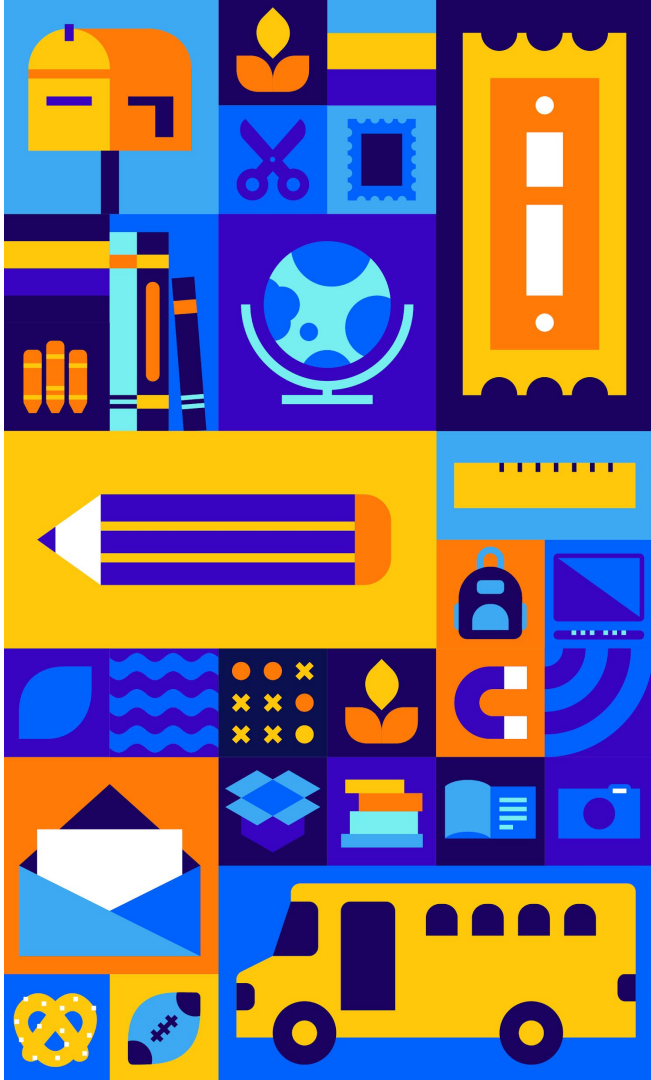
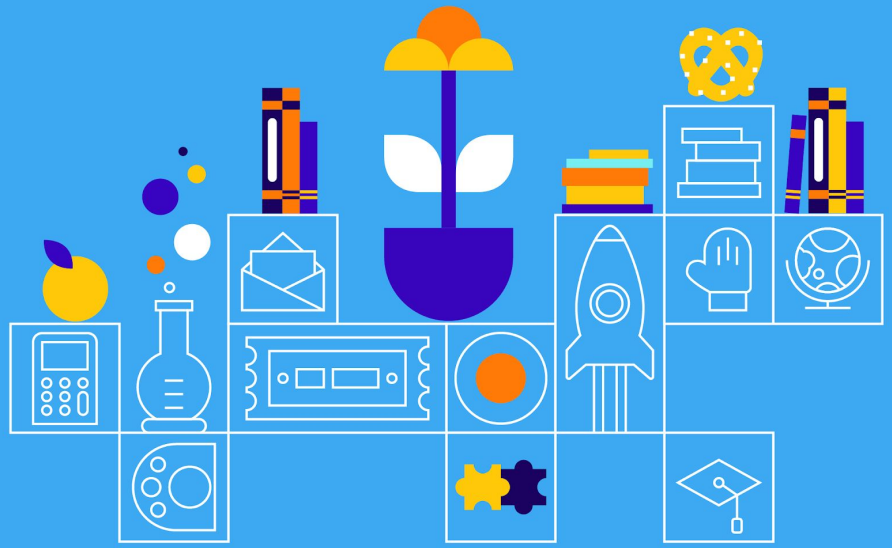
Superintendent Elsie Arntzen and the Montana Office of Public Instruction

Final Report

Report as of October 2024





Contents

About DonorsChoose

About DonorsChoose

DonorsChoose is the leading way to give to public schools. Since 2000, more than 6 million people and partners have contributed over $1.7 billion to support 3 million teacher requests for classroom resources and experiences.

As the most trusted crowdfunding platform for teachers, donors, and district administrators alike, **DonorsChoose** vets each request, ships the funded resources directly to the classroom, and provides thank yous and reporting to donors and school leaders. Charity Navigator and GuideStar have awarded DonorsChoose, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, their highest ratings for transparency and accountability. For more information, visit www.donorschoose.org.

Campaign Overview

Project Funding Overview

Your Project Funding campaign fully funded **math and literacy** projects posted by teachers from schools in **Montana**. Your logo and donor comment appeared on each project you helped support.

Lego Robotics Kit

Help me give my students STEM Robotic Kits to Enhance their Creative Thinking Skills and Improve Math Skills

1 DONOR — $474 GOAL

HOORAY! THIS PROJECT IS FULLY FUNDED

Mr. Engay has another project! Donate to STEM Kit for Science Class to help his classroom.

$ Give

Mr. Engay
Grades 9-12
Montana

More than a third of students from low-income households

This project will reach **20** students.

1 donor has given to this project.

My Project

LEGO robots as educational tools engage students in their own learning through active environments, which in turn promotes the development of higher thinking and problem solving skills, promoting student conceptualization in meaningful authentic way which I think necessary to improve math and reading skills. Theirs also a study suggest that Lego and robotics program help improved mathematical skills. This is also accompanied with a tons of lesson which we could incorporate reading, math and science. We want also to compete with NASA Artemis ROADS III Students Challenge this year and the addition of another set will help my students accomplish the 8 missions.

Rosebud, MT | Grades 9-12 | More than a third of students from low-income households | Literacy | Mathematics | Montana Office of Public Instruction funding | Educational Kits & Games

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION — ELSIE ARNTZEN, STATE SUPERINTENDENT

This classroom project was brought to life by Superintendent Elsie Arntzen and the Montana OPI.

Project Funding Overview

continued

Each time a project was funded, your donation message was posted and remains on the page of every project you helped support.

AUG 22 **Good news: Project fully funded!**

AUG 22 **Superintendent Elsie Arntzen and the Montana OPI** gave

> Superintendent Arntzen is excited to offer this great opportunity to our Montana teachers. Your projects will help our students achieve academic success!

AUG 22 **Inna**, a volunteer at DonorsChoose, verified the cost of the requested **resources** and posted this project

AUG 22 **Inna**, a volunteer at DonorsChoose, reviewed the project essay and sent follow-up questions if needed

AUG 20 **Mr. Engay** submitted this project

Your Page

Visit your page to see every project your partnership brought to life

DONORS CHOOSE | Find a classroom to support | TEACHERS: Get funded | Partner with us | About us | Help | Sign in

Superintendent Elsie Arntzen and the Montana OPI

$1,500,000 given to projects

3,332	488	3,332
Funded projects	Schools served	Teachers supported

Teachers, get started here.

The Montana Office of Public Instruction is applying over $1 million of

read more

All Projects

Completed projects 3,332

Rural Robots Wanted!

Help me give my students an opportunity to learn how to code using Sphero robots, and preparing them for future careers in technology and engineering!

Ms. McDonough
Shelby Elementary School • Montana

Math Manipulatives

Help me give my students access to more dry erase boards and math manipulatives.

Mrs. Sawyer
Thompson Falls Elementary School •

Lego Robotics Kit

Help me give my students STEM Robotic Kits to Enhance their Creative Thinking Skills and Improve Math Skills

Mr. Engay
Rosebud School • Montana

Campaign Results

Total Funding Impact

$1,500,000

Dollars applied

3,332

Projects funded

3,332

Teachers with projects funded

488

Schools participating

7%

Projects from schools with 50% or more of students from low-income households

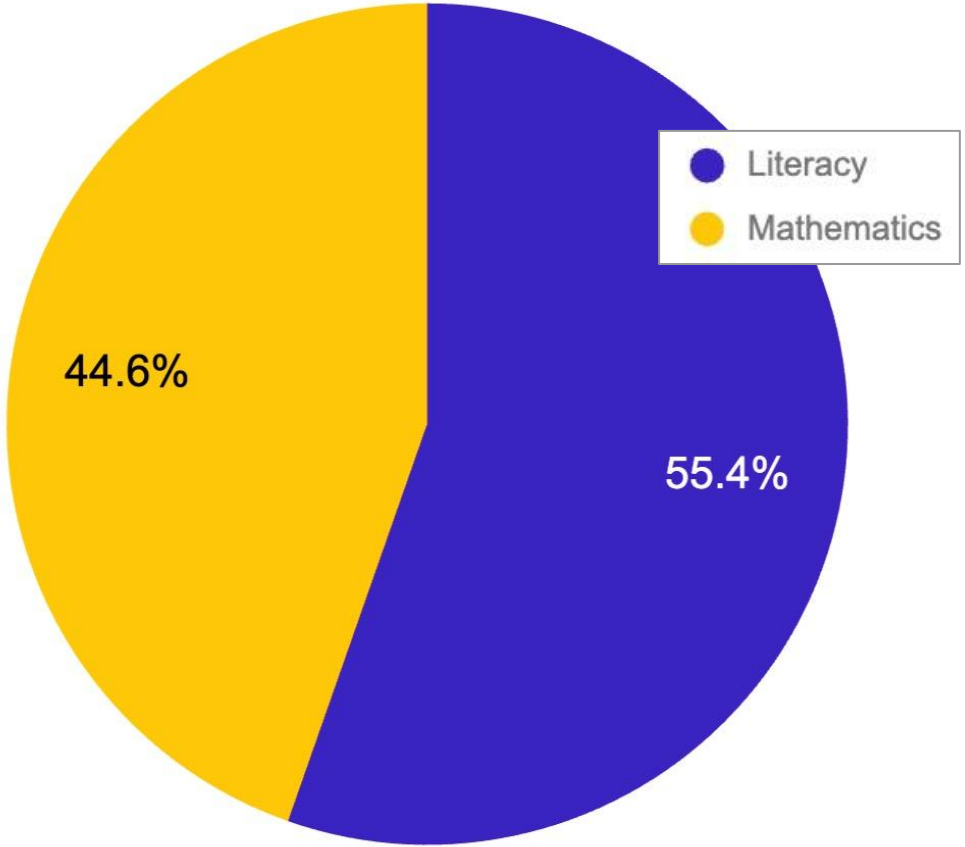
See Data Transparency slide for information on reporting data being used.

3,332

CLASSROOM PROJECTS FUNDED

All projects that received funding focused on:

- Literacy
- Mathematics



3,332

TEACHERS SUPPORTED

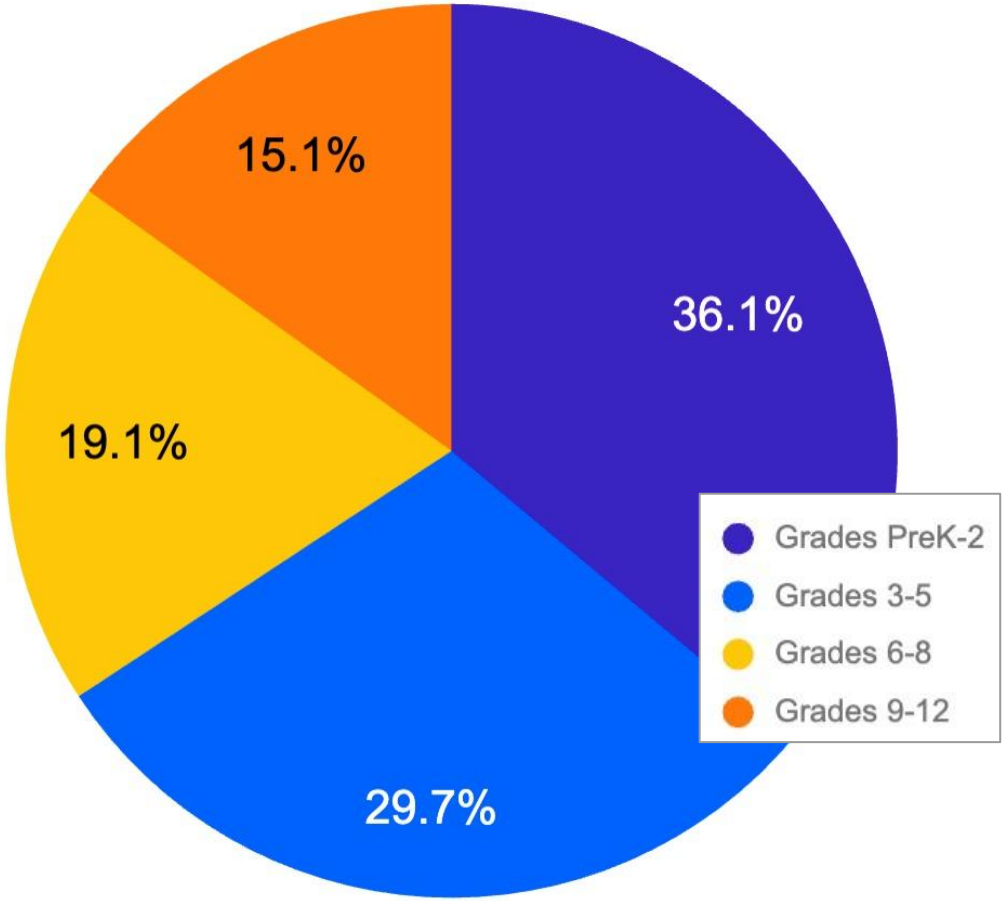
2,572 of whom had their first-ever project funded thanks to your partnership

488

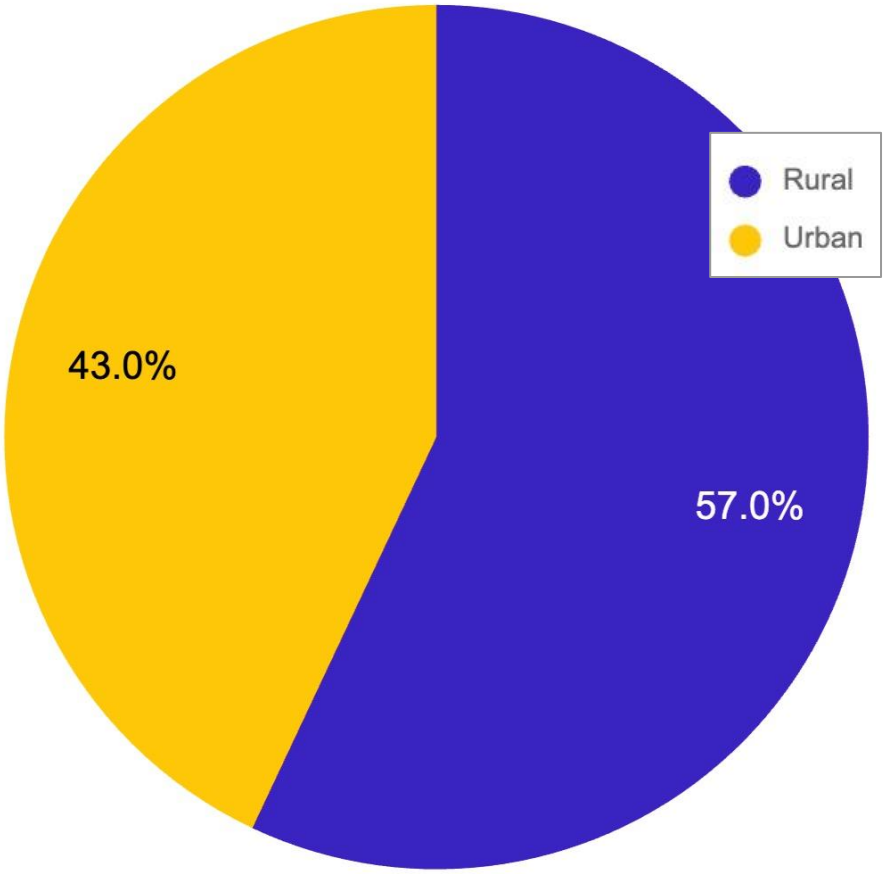
SCHOOLS REACHED

8% of schools that received funding have 50% or more of students from low-income households

Classroom Grade Levels

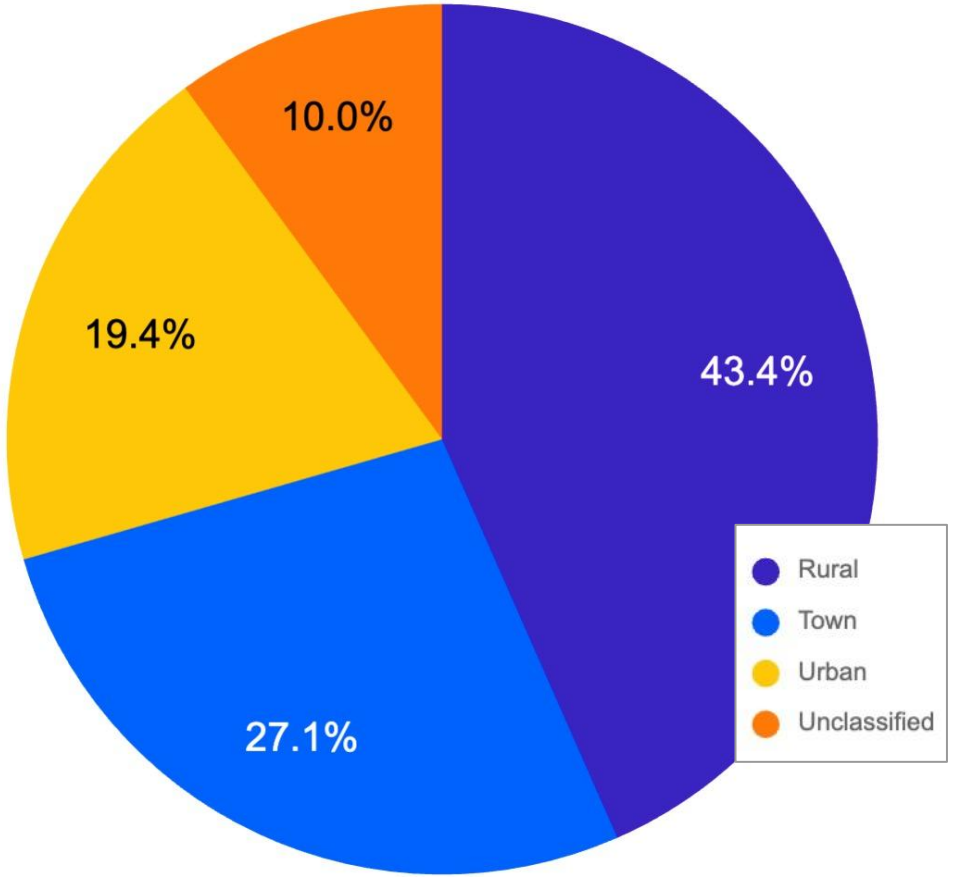


Montana OPI Metro Type



As defined by Montana OPI

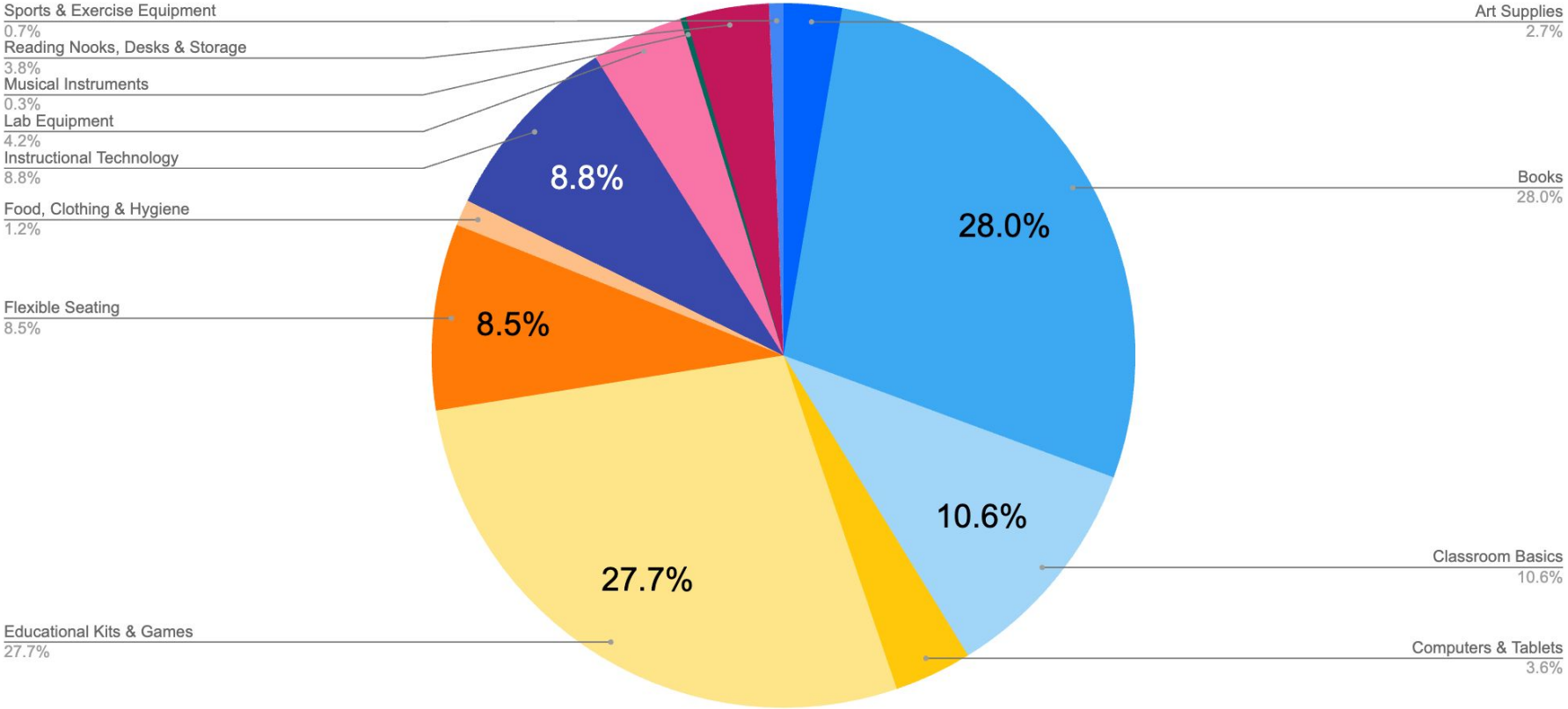
DonorsChoose Metro Type



As defined by DonorsChoose

Resources

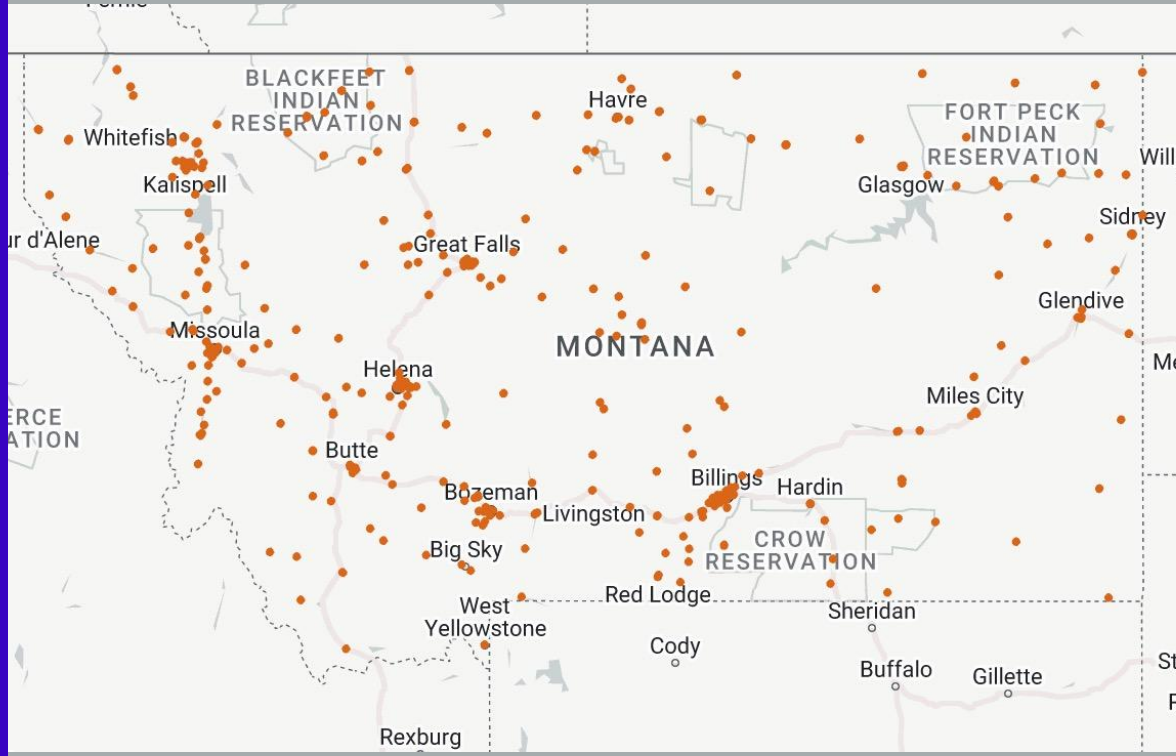
A project can request multiple types of resources, so a literacy project might also include art supplies, reading nooks, or flexible seating)



Geographic Impact

Your project funding helped projects in **Montana** come to life.

351 projects were funded in Billings, **313 projects** were funded in Missoula, and **212 projects** were funded in Great Falls.



Urban Funding Impact

$645,000

Dollars applied

1,429

Projects funded

1,429

Teachers with projects funded

155

Schools participating

3%

Projects from schools with 50% or more of students from low-income households

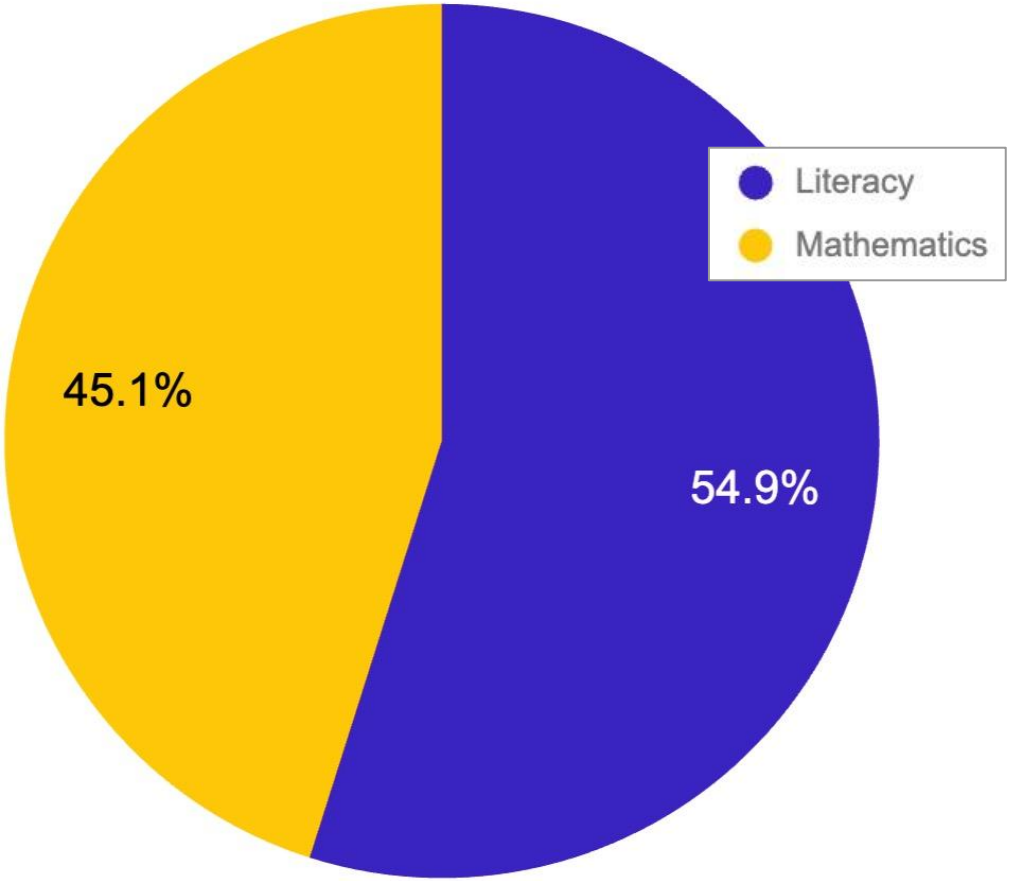
See Data Transparency slide for information on reporting data being used.

1,429

CLASSROOM PROJECTS FUNDED

All projects that received funding focused on:

- Literacy
- Mathematics



1,429

TEACHERS SUPPORTED

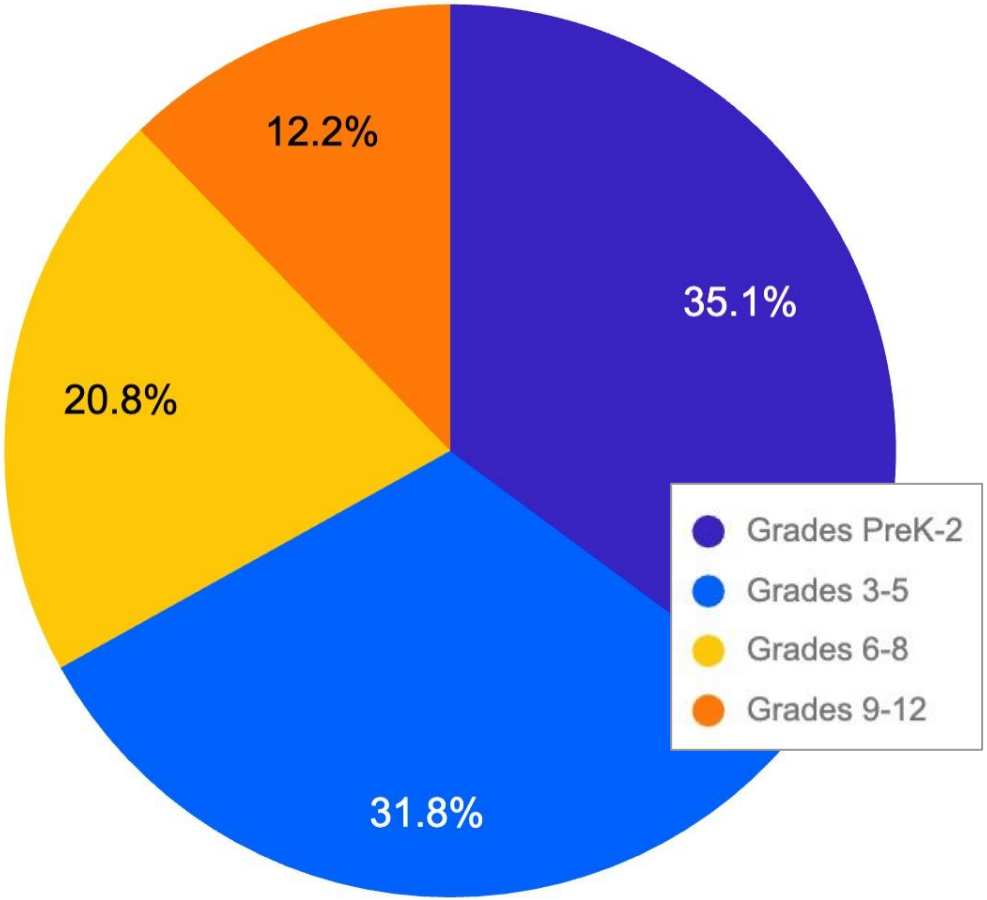
1,065 of whom had their first-ever project funded thanks to your partnership

155

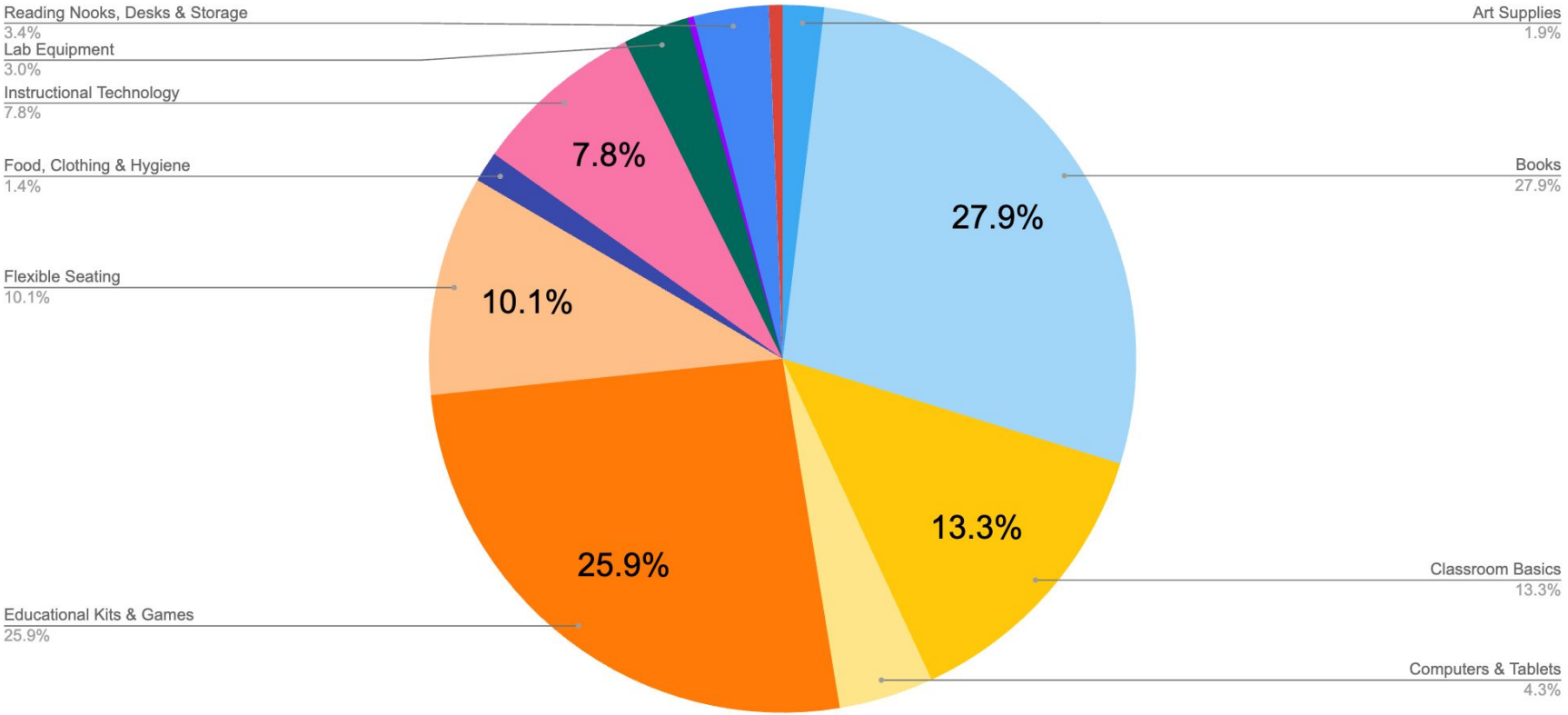
SCHOOLS REACHED

5% of schools that received funding have 50% or more of students from low-income households

Classroom Grade Levels



Resources


Reading Nooks, Desks & Storage
3.4%
Lab Equipment
3.0%
Instructional Technology
7.8%
Food, Clothing & Hygiene
1.4%
Flexible Seating
10.1%
Educational Kits & Games
25.9%
Art Supplies
1.9%
Books
27.9%
Classroom Basics
13.3%
Computers & Tablets
4.3%
7.8%
27.9%
13.3%
25.9%
10.1%

Rural Funding Impact

$855,000

Dollars applied

1,904

Projects funded

1,904

Teachers with projects funded

385

Schools participating

10%

Projects from schools with 50% or more of students from low-income households

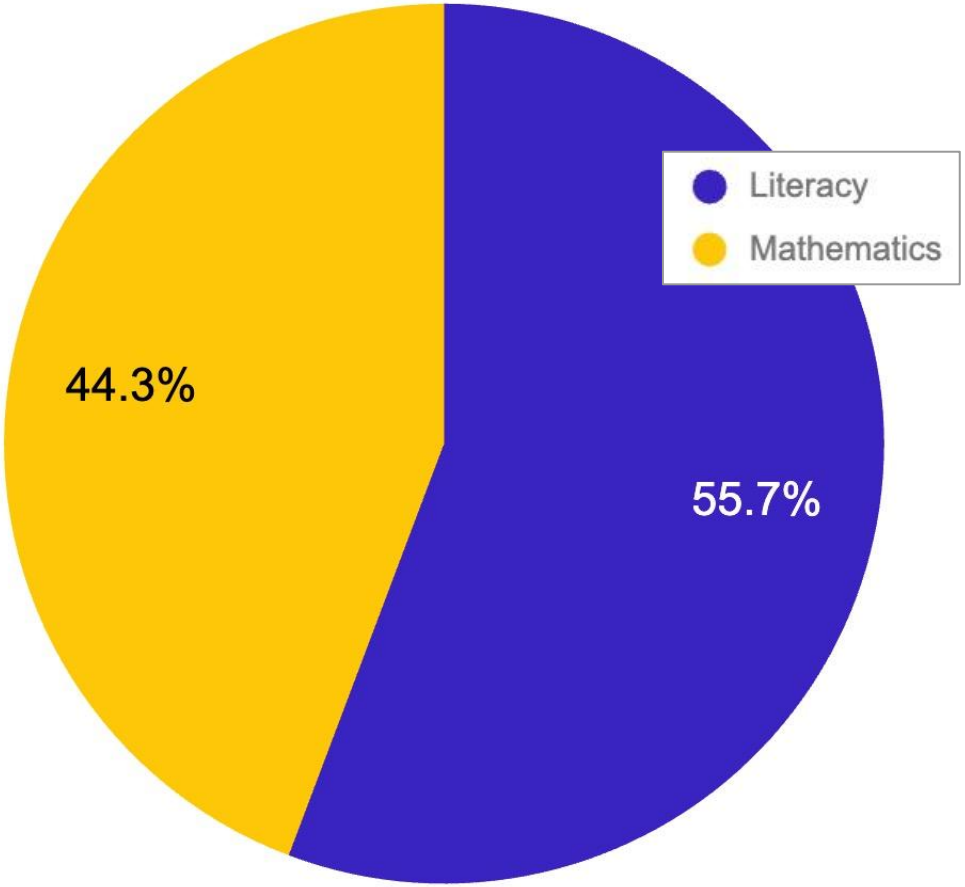
See Data Transparency slide for information on reporting data being used.

1,904

CLASSROOM PROJECTS FUNDED

All projects that received funding focused on:

- Literacy
- Mathematics



1,904

TEACHERS SUPPORTED

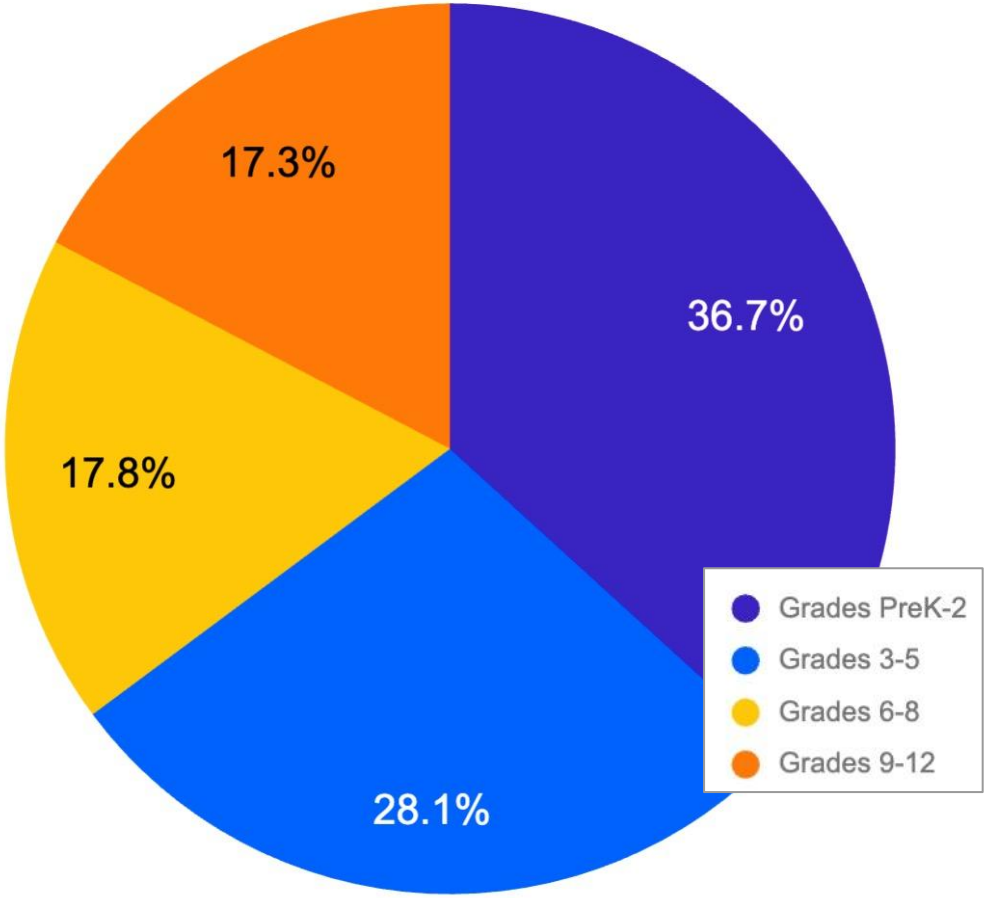
1,508 of whom had their first-ever project funded thanks to your partnership

385

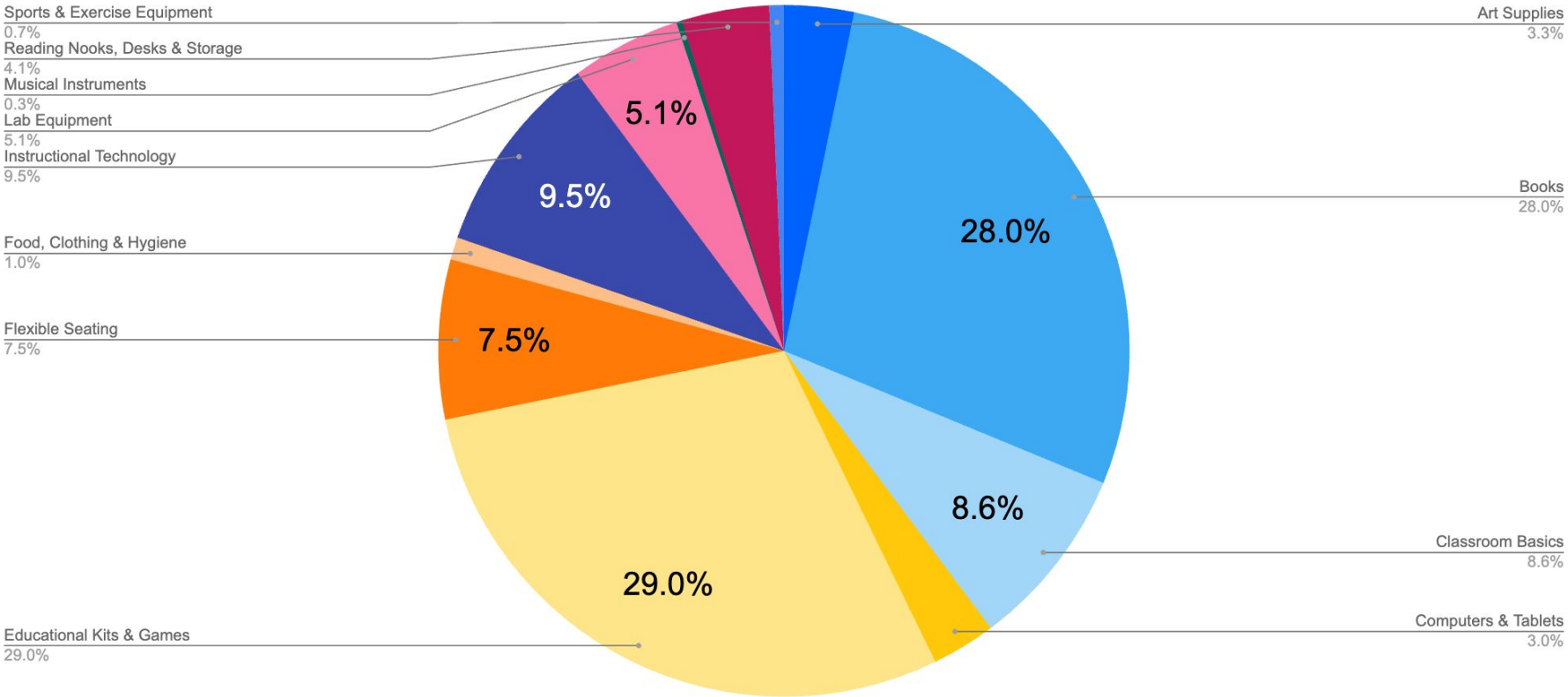
SCHOOLS REACHED

9% of schools that received funding have 50% or more of students from low-income households

Classroom Grade Levels



Resources


Sports & Exercise Equipment
0.7%
Reading Nooks, Desks & Storage
4.1%
Musical Instruments
0.3%
Lab Equipment
5.1%
Instructional Technology
9.5%
Food, Clothing & Hygiene
1.0%
Flexible Seating
7.5%
Educational Kits & Games
29.0%
Art Supplies
3.3%
Books
28.0%
Classroom Basics
8.6%
Computers & Tablets
3.0%
5.1%
9.5%
28.0%
7.5%
29.0%
8.6%

Notes from the Classroom

We asked teachers whose projects you fully funded:

- Please share anything you would like the Montana Office of Public Instruction to know about the impact of your project.
- How did this project support your students' academic needs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic? If your project was reading related, how did this project use evidence-based practices, such as the Science of Reading? Did your project involve any interventions or focus on numeracy?

Boost Reading Success: Leveled Readers for Every Student

“I am incredibly grateful for the support from Superintendent Elsie Arntzen and the Montana Office of Public Instruction. This project has been instrumental in addressing the academic needs of my students.

By providing leveled readers, we are using evidence-based practices aligned with the Science of Reading, ensuring that each student engages with texts that match their individual levels. This targeted approach not only builds foundational skills for early readers but also challenges advanced learners, promoting deeper comprehension and critical thinking.

The diverse range of genres and topics within the leveled readers has also sparked renewed enthusiasm for reading among students who may have struggled in the past. Overall, this project has fostered a supportive environment that encourages all students to thrive academically, ultimately helping them recover from the setbacks they faced during the pandemic. Thank you for your commitment to enhancing educational opportunities in our community.”

Mrs. Kinna
Grades PreK-2 | Fort Shaw, MT

Eureka! I Got It!

“Dear Superintendent Elsie Arntzen and the Montana OPI, On behalf of the students and staff at Central Elementary School, I want to extend our heartfelt thanks for your generous support in funding the Eureka Math curriculum. Your contribution is making a tremendous difference in the way our students engage with and understand mathematics.

With Eureka Math, we are able to provide our students with a comprehensive, hands-on approach to learning that promotes deep understanding and critical thinking. It has already begun to transform how they approach problem-solving, and we are excited to see their confidence and skills grow with each lesson.

Your generosity has opened the door to new possibilities for our students, giving them the tools they need to succeed academically and beyond. We are deeply grateful for your commitment to enriching their education and helping us offer the best resources possible.

Thank you for being such an important part of our school community and for investing in the future of our students.”

Mr. Cicero
Grades 3-5 | Helena, MT

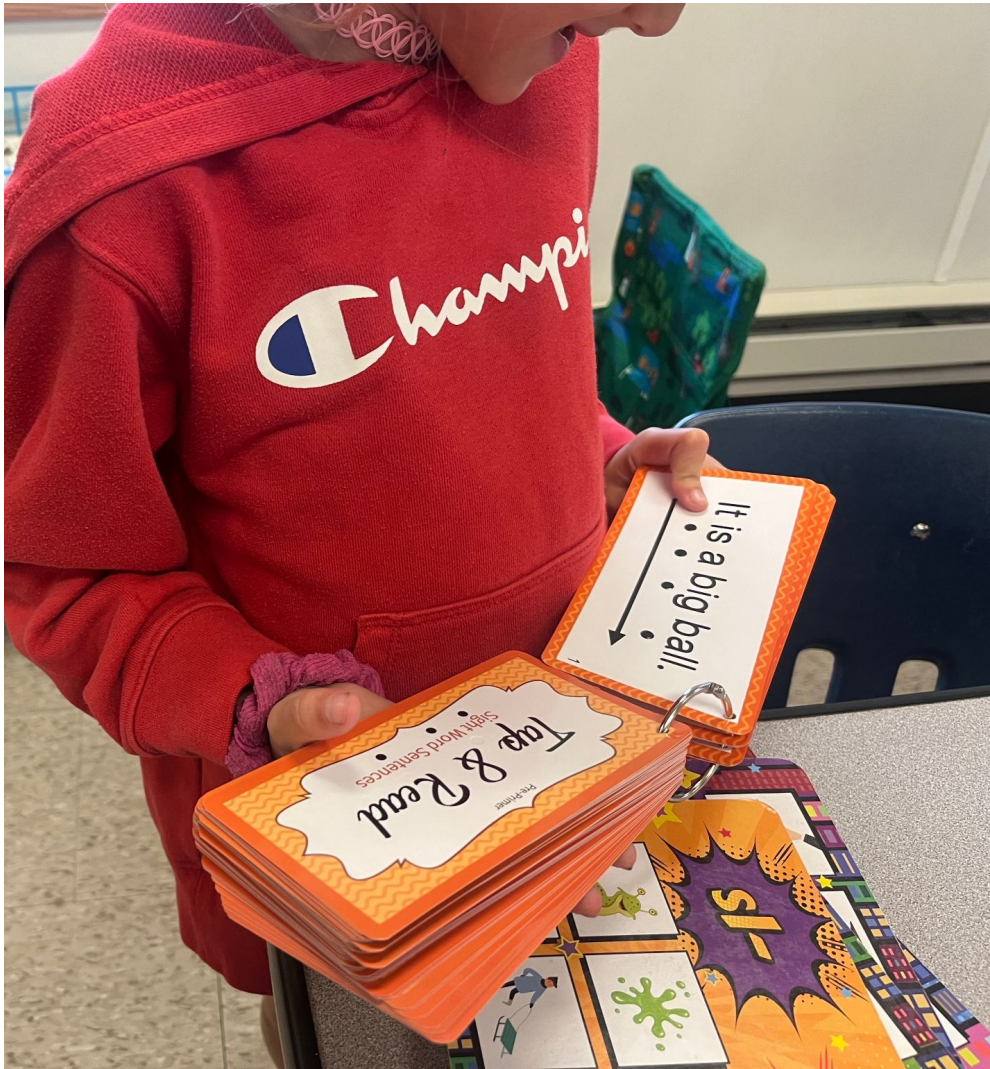
Math and Reading Fun!

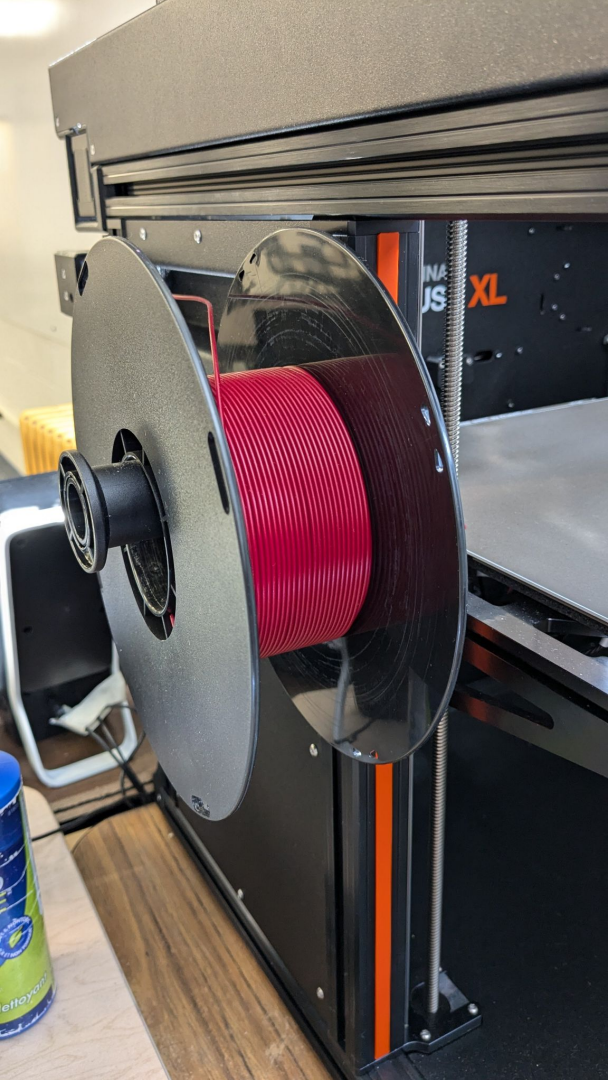
“Dear Superintendent Elsie Arntzen and the Montana OPI, Thank you so much for giving us the funds for this project. I ordered educational math and reading games. These games have helped extend and refine knowledge during literacy and math stations. The students love the games and they are helping them learn! I teach first and second grade, so it is important I keep the activities we do engaging and these games definitely do! The COVID-19 pandemic did not affect my particular students (they were not in school yet), but I do think the activities I ordered help support my students' academic needs.

My project was reading and math related. We not only got educational games, but we also got a lot of books. The books I ordered were based on students' interests. We will use them in small group reading which will support what I have learned about the Science of Reading. The projects also helped students with numeracy because the games ordered extend and refine knowledge. Students worked in small groups with a paraprofessional and these games helped them with their math and reading skills!

This was an amazing thing that you guys did. We appreciate the donations so much!”

Ms. Michaud
Grades PreK-2 | Fortine, MT





Mathematical Modeling!

“I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Elsie Arntzen and the Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) for their unwavering dedication to student achievement in Montana. Your commitment to providing quality education, supporting teachers, and investing in our students' futures has made a profound impact on our schools and communities. The initiatives and resources you champion help ensure that all Montana students have access to a well-rounded education that prepares them for success beyond the classroom. Your leadership and continued efforts to enhance educational opportunities are greatly appreciated, and we are grateful for everything you do to support our students, educators, and schools across the state.

With the supplies funded by the DonorsChoose grant, my students have been actively exploring geometry in a hands-on and engaging way. They are using 3d printing to understand key concepts like angles, shapes, and spatial relationships. By working through these real-world applications, students are not only learning the theoretical aspects of geometry but also how these principles apply to everyday tasks. This hands-on exploration helps them grasp complex ideas more intuitively and fosters a deeper appreciation for mathematics...

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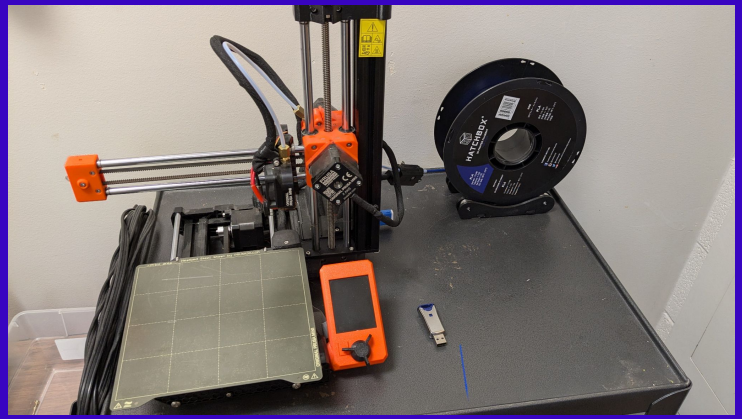


Mathematical Modeling!

“Additionally, the students are using 3D modeling software to design and fabricate parts, turning their mathematical knowledge into tangible creations. They start by sketching their designs on paper, then move into the software to create digital models, adjusting measurements and angles as they go. This process allows them to practice precision and problem-solving skills. Once the models are complete, students use 3D printers to bring their designs to life, seeing firsthand how math, technology, and creativity come together. This experience is giving them practical skills in design and fabrication that they can build upon in future STEM learning and careers.”

Mr. Warner

Grades 9-12 | Helena, MT

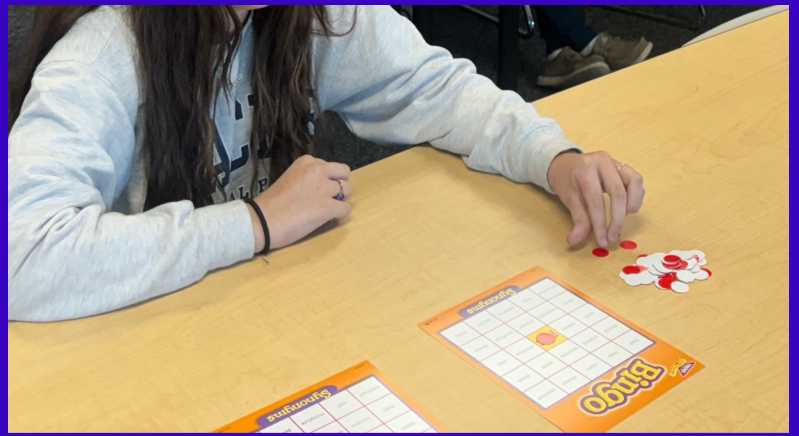
Developing Strong Readers!

“Dear Superintendent Elsie Arntzen and the Montana OPI, This project has been instrumental in supporting students’ recovery from pandemic-related learning loss, particularly in reading and literacy skills. The hands-on materials increased student engagement and motivation, helping to re-establish foundational skills that were disrupted during distance learning.

One of the Evidence-Based Practices (Science of Reading) focused within this project is the use of interactive word-building activities for phonemic awareness, phonics, and vocabulary building. Students learned to break down words using prefixes and suffixes, improving both decoding and comprehension skills. Small group instruction and targeted interventions were implemented for students needing additional support. Frequent progress monitoring allowed for timely adjustments to meet individual needs.

Overall, this project has been vital in addressing gaps in reading development and has set the foundation for continued growth.”

Mrs. Whitman
Grades 9-12 | Columbia Falls, MT



Math Lego Wall

“Dear Superintendent Elsie Arntzen and the Montana OPI,

Thanks so much for working with me to make math accessible for Braille readers. There are not many opportunities for students with visual impairments to actively engage with math activities beyond simple raised line drawings. Representing math in this way makes it more accessible and meaningful for Braille readers.

The kids in my math classes have been so excited about receiving the Lego Wall materials. They have been so eager to engage with the materials. They were "checking in" with me everyday to see if the materials had arrived yet. The Lego Wall enables students to work on a variety of math skills. For example, the Legos can be used to tactually represent arrays to work on multiplication facts. Legos can also be used to work with length, width, and height in unit measures. Additionally, the Lego mat can represent a coordinate plane for more advanced math skills. My students will use Braille activity cards to interact with the Legos. The cards ask them to create arrays of specific size, measure the units of perimeter, area and height, as well plot points on a coordinate plane.”

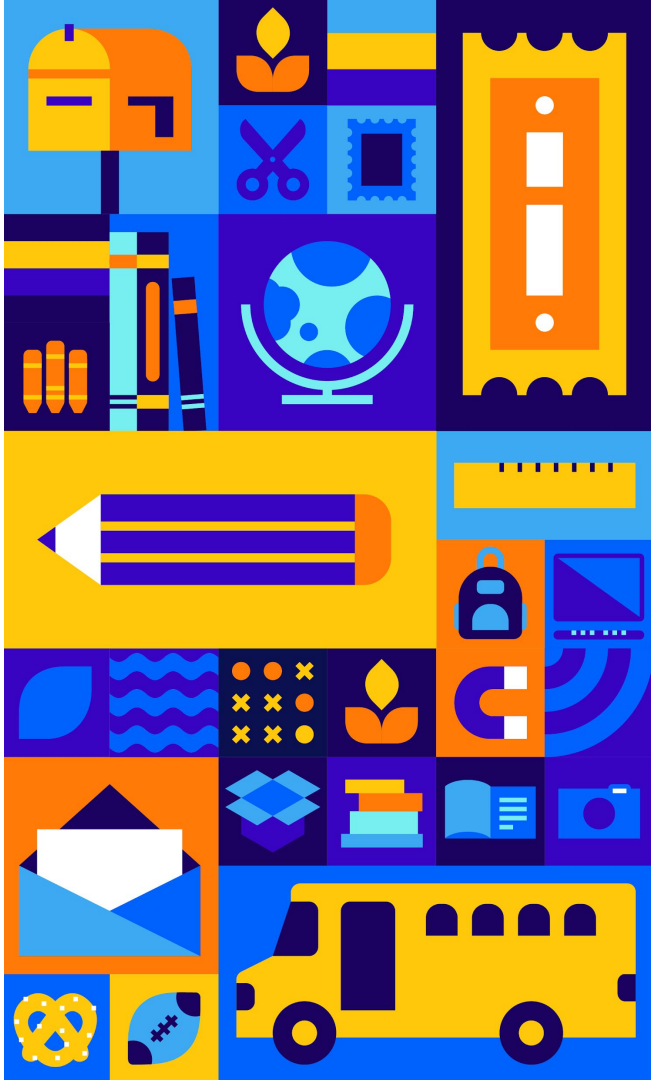
Ms. Welborn
Grades 3-5 | Great Falls, MT

Thank you!

Kirk Smiley
Managing Director, Government Partnerships
kirk@donorschoose.org

DONORS CHOOSE

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
ELSIE ARNTZEN, STATE SUPERINTENDENT



This report reflects project data as of October 17, 2024.

Since your campaign launched, certain project details may have changed. We update our data year-round to ensure accuracy, so recent changes to designations around student demographics and Free or Reduced Price Lunch updates (reflected in our Equity Focus Schools designation) and teachers transitioning to new locations may be reflected in this report.

Through our rigorous set up and testing, we ensure that all projects funded met **Montana Office of Public Instruction**'s criteria at the time the project was eligible for funding. Per our materials ownership policy, funded resources stay at the school where the teacher was located when the project was eligible for funding, even if that teacher moves to a new location.