



Tips to Raise Money for Your School Library

Here are some field-tested ideas from librarians across the country. You may find your next fund-raising idea here or get a new idea to share!

- Invite parents to visit the school library during Back-to-School Night and have a sign-up sheet for Friends of the School Library. Make copies of the downloadable sheet “School Libraries Matter” to share with parents and ask them to become involved by volunteering or raising money for the library.
- Invite the PTA president to hold a PTA meeting in the library, and give a brief presentation of the programs and activities that the library offers. Tell parents about the research proving the link between school libraries and student success. Ask the PTA to help you fund the library’s specific needs and be sure to thank them publicly if they do.
- Host a book fair in the school library to bring students and parents in. A percentage of sales from the book fair will be shared with the school. Scholastic Book Fairs is the largest book fair company in the country.
- Host a change drive on different days throughout the year. For example, ask students, teachers, and parents to donate nickels on May 5, dimes on October 10, and quarters at the end of each quarter.
- Host a booth at your school carnival and raise money by selling food, offering face painting, or hosting an art project station.
- Look for partnerships with local civic groups, such as the Lions Club, Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club, or other local organizations. Many groups will be eager to support public education, if you present a clear case for the impact the donation will make on student achievement.
- Host a school read-a-thon that gets students and teachers reading and raises money for the school library.
- Search for grants for school libraries. There are many available, including James Patterson’s pledge to give \$1.75 million to school libraries in 2016. Visit the website at scholastic.com/pattersonpartnership to apply.
- Be creative! Ask other librarians for strategies that have worked for them. Engage the local community, from sports teams to businesses. Supporting our children’s education is vital to raising our next generation of leaders!