

Tips to Advocate for Funds in Your Classroom

Ready to ask your administrators for funds? Here's a checklist with points to consider:



Do the research. A curriculum or resource found online may need improvement. Some things just look shiny, making it hard to distinguish good from bad when looking for resources. If it's not based on best practices, kids suffer.



Are there available funds for your content area? Funds are budgeted in various categories at the beginning of the year and must be used in their budgeted categories.



Find out the steps of the process. For example, teachers may need to work with the department head, the finance secretary, and the principal. Purchase orders or even several bids may be required.



Will other teachers be able to utilize the program or product?



What kind of training is necessary for implementation?



If a program is funded, who's taking it on? Will a stipend be necessary? Will that person need more time allotted throughout the day?



Will the program be sustainable in the long term?



Before signing up for free trials, ensure budgeted funds are available to pay for products AFTER a trial period is over. You don't want to become dependent on a product you can't continue using.



Don't forget the IT Department. A back end needs to be integrated with current software for many programs.