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Raising Money to Afford an Author Visit

School funding grows tighter and tighter! Here are 10 fundraising ideas for school visits.

1. **Ask the PTO/PTA to sponsor the visit**, or to at least match school-raised funds.
2. **Apply for a grant.** Check out <http://www.schoolgrants.org/index.htm>, <http://www.grantsalert.com/grants.cfm?id=4&qid=2733>, <http://www.donorschoose.org/homepage/main.html> to get started.

Finding money from an outside source is great, but if your teachers and students are involved in the fundraising, they will likely be more invested in the author visit itself!

3. **Hold a book sale.** Most publishers give schools a substantial discount (around 40%), which allows you to fund a visit by selling the author's books.
4. **Go to your families.** Divide the visit cost by your number of families minus 10%. If the visit is \$1,000 and you have 700 students, divide 1000 by 630. You get 1.59. Create a "permission slip" to get kids and parents excited! Then ask each student to pay \$1.60 (because you don't want all those pennies!).
5. **Sell a small reading/writing-related novelty item**, like bracelets, to your students (try a company like <http://www.school-fundraisers.com/>).
6. **Sell an extra treat** in the cafeteria for 3 days only.
7. **Ask the PTO/PTA to run a raffle.** Solicit an excellent donation from a major retailer and sell raffle tickets. Announce the winner on the author visit day!

Students love to see teachers make fools of themselves! If your teachers are willing...

8. **Rent a dunking booth** and have kids pay \$1 for a chance to hit the sweet spot and send their favorite(!) teacher into the water.
9. **Hold a coin drive.** Each teacher chooses a prize to motivate the kids. The teacher of the top fundraising class delivers! Teachers have shaved their heads and sung songs onstage at lunch. Or the prize might relate to the visit itself. For instance, the winning teacher could dress up as a character from the book.
10. **Hold a staff vs. kids challenge** and charge admission--anything from volleyball to trivia. Handicap the grown-ups to give kids a good chance of winning. Talk up the event, and hold it at night so that parents will come, too!