



## How you can help students be financially savvy

Dear [Head of Business or Organization],

I'm a [grade level] teacher at [name of school], and I'm seeking your [organization's] support for an exciting financial literacy program in my class. It is a "classroom economy" aimed at showing students how to manage their finances while helping them see the value of working responsibly, delaying gratification, and saving for the future.

I'm hoping you can help us by donating some small items for the classroom auctions that serve as incentives in the program. This is how it works:

Students are required to pay monthly rent for their desks, plus electricity bills. To make the payments, they must earn classroom "dollars" by holding down class jobs. They also need to earn bonus cash for good schoolwork and other activities, but they can face fines for unwelcome behavior. Those who bank more than the amount of their monthly payments can bid in classroom auctions—that's where I hope you'll come in! If they save even more, they can buy their desks and stop paying rent.

You can see how powerful this program is in teaching essential life skills. The auctions are key, because they give the students a goal and make the learning fun. I would be very grateful if you could support us by donating items to be bid on, for example, gift certificates, small toys, school supplies, or nonperishable food.

Our system is based on "My Classroom Economy," a program developed by volunteers at Vanguard, a major investment company, in partnership with Rafe Esquith, a widely recognized educator and author. You can learn more about it at [myclassroomeconomy.org](http://myclassroomeconomy.org).

My students and I thank you in advance for any contribution you can make to the success of this program.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Teacher's name]  
[Teacher's school]