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## Indiana Launches DonorsChoose.org

Sep 14, 2006 01:17 PM



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News 8 @ 5:00

A new website in Indiana let's you help teachers so they can help students. The 5th grade students at IPS School 51 are preparing for the I-STEP, but they don't have all the tools they need to learn.

"These kids struggle with math concepts, fractions especially, and it's just so hard for them to get the visual without something to play with," said teacher Misty Harger.

That could change thanks to the Indiana launch of donorschoose.org, a website that allows donors to funnel money directly into the classroom of their choice.

"It could be \$60 worth of pencils, \$500 classroom library, a \$2000 field trip," explained Charles Best of donorschoose.org.

On the website, teachers write proposals for items they feel will help educate their students. Donors can see how their dollars will be spent to make a difference. Governor Mitch Daniels helped kick-off the website by logging on and making a donation of his own.

"Every donor can know the program they support. Every penny is going to that program and it's being spent for the intended purpose. What a great way for people with a heart for education to act on it," said Governor Daniels.

Students in Ms. Harger's class are excited about the website. Their teacher is asking for donations to buy calculators and other hands on math tools.

"So we can learn more, so we can get the answers quicker, so it can help us," said Anye Tyson, student.

"I think it's really important because she always wanted to help us with math. Now she has a way to help us with math," said Monique Riddick, a student in Ms. Harger's class.

Passing the I-STEP may become easier for these kids thanks to their teacher, a website, and some donors. While donorschoose.org is new to Indiana, the website was created in 2000. Since then donations to individual classrooms are nearing

the \$8 million mark.



Misty Harger



Charles Best



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