



Wacky School Fundraising Ideas

Thank you for supporting JDRF Illinois: Powered by Kids, school fundraising program to benefit type 1 diabetes (T1D) research. This program is a way for kids and teens to help make a difference in the fight against T1D. We hope the program promotes a feeling of empowerment knowing that everyone is helping to find a cure for this life-threatening disease.

Schools, clubs, sports teams, and youth groups are encouraged to participate. JDRF will provide all educational and fundraising materials in any quantity and at no cost. Materials include donation collection containers or envelopes to support classroom donation competitions, JDRF paper sneakers (4 Colors), JDRF paper rulers, & JDRF vinyl banners. Review our fundraising ideas below, choose a combination of activities, or design your own creative idea!

General Fundraising Ideas

- Event ticket sales: sporting event, theater production, chess tournament, etc.
- Spare change or classroom penny wars
- Paper sneaker sales (create a sneaker wall or write T1D notes on the sneaker)
- Stuck for a Buck: sell duct tape & tape your favorite teacher to the wall
- Host a teacher v student dodge ball or kick ball game
- Host a school dance or talent show
- School concession stands, bake sale, or selling candy grams
- Pie in the Face: sell plates of whip cream during lunch to throw at your teacher
- Host a homerun derby: determine the donation amount to enter the competition and admission to watch the event
- Spirit days: student pay \$1 - \$5 donation to participate each day

Rewards & Incentives

These can be awarded to the top fundraising classes, individual student fundraisers or to the whole school for reaching your pre-determined fundraising goal

- Pizza party, popcorn and a movie, or ice cream social
- Field day, field trip or extra recess time
- JDRF School Walk Day – celebrate your success and walk around your school together
- JDRF gear or bracelets – you can purchase 100 bracelets for \$21 at shop.jdrf.org

JDRF Themed Spirit Days

- “Hat” enough of T1D - hat day
- “Tired of T1D” - pajama day
- “Team Up” to cure T1D - sports day
- “Our school wants a cure for T1D”- school colors day
- JDRF “Walk” day - sneaker day
- Be a T1D hero - superhero day
- “Sock” it to T1D - crazy sock day
- Blue out T1D”- dress in JDRF blue from head to toe
- Dress down day if you wear uniforms

Spirit Day/Week

Show your school spirit and raise funds! Students and staff made a donation of \$1, \$3, or \$5 (or any amount you decide) and participate in dress up days like:

- Superhero day
- Storybook character day
- Dress in the blue day (blue symbolizes Diabetes Awareness)
- Crazy hat day
- Silly sneaker day
- Pajama day
- Dress down day
- Sports day
- School colors day
- Dress up day-wear your fancy gowns and tuxes

EXTRA CREDIT: Show your school spirit by having a different theme each day for a week or even once a week for a month depending on your school campaign.

Thons

Have some fun or reach a fitness or academic goal! Select your “thon” and set your goal (e.g. number of hours danced, number of books read, number of laps, etc.) Students ask for pledges for each hour they dance, each book they read, each lap they complete, etc.

- Dance-a-thon
- Zumba-thon
- Bike-a-thon or trike-a-thon
- Read-a-thon

EXTRA CREDIT: In addition to asking students to participate individually, create a little friendly competition between classrooms, student groups or teams and offer a special reward!

Come and Get Your Tickets

Donate your school’s ticket sales from:

- School play
- Choir or band concert
- Talent show
- Dance
- Winter/spring carnival
- Family movie night
- Family game night
- Student art auction (also donate proceeds from art sales!)

EXTRA CREDIT: Sell popcorn, drinks and more and donate the proceeds.

Sell Your Stuff

Do your students have services or stuff that can be turned into donations?

“Sell” tutoring, babysitting or other chores like cutting grass, raking leaves or shoveling snow. This fundraiser is great for high school students!

Host a school garage sale-families bring their things to school parking lot, all proceeds donate

Create and sell a kid’s cookbook-everyone turns in favorite recipe, compile into book/e-book and sell

Sports Tournament

Charge an entry fee for teams to compete in a basketball, volleyball, kickball or other tournament. Get coaches, teachers, and parents to participate or compete against students!

Students’ vs. students

Staff vs. parents

Students vs. teachers

EXTRA CREDIT: Sell popcorn, drinks and more and donate the proceeds.

Pass the Can

This is so fun to do at football games and other sporting events where you will have adults and students seated. Pass the can around the stands. Make an announcement that the funds are going to JDRF and have students make poster to hang in the entry way.

EXTRA CREDIT: Ask the competing team to pass the can at the same time to see who raises the most at the event.

Support JDRF for a Week, a Month or a Season

Donate proceeds from concessions for a month or football, basketball, volleyball or soccer.

- Round up at lunch! Donate change from school lunch
- Spare change hunt- ask your parents for spare change found in the car, under couch cushions or other places around the house.

EXTRA CREDIT: November is National Diabetes Awareness Month! It's a great time to hold a fundraiser like that and raise awareness for type 1 diabetes at the same time!

Create Your Own

Show your school's originality by creating your very own unique event! Looking for even more ideas? Check this out to help get you even more inspired.

EXTRA CREDIT: Ask students come up with fundraising ideas and vote for the type of fundraiser they like to. Engage student organizations to lead the effort.

NO matter what you decide to raise funds for life changing T1D research, we thank you! Have fun!

More Wacky Ways to Motivate Your Students

Pucker Up!

For some reason, students love to see adults kiss an animal...especially one you don't see every day. So find a pig, cow, goat, donkey, or even a fish (yes, a fish!), put on some lip balm, and say, "smooch"! Put the word out to staff, parents, and local farms to find the creature that is just right for the job!

Up on the Roof!

Prepare yourself to spend a night or day on the school roof. Your students won't believe their eyes when they get off the school bus and see you emerge from your rooftop sleeping quarters! If a day on the roof sounds better, set up your office high above the school and invite the kids to watch you work during recess. Have fun playing this one up—wear footie pajamas and let students think they woke you up in the morning, or send office papers down to them via paper airplanes! Day or night, the sight of you holding court on the roof will surely be one to remember!

Hair, Hair Everywhere!

This one is easy...all you need is someone who is willing to shave or dye a beloved mustache, beard, or head of hair for a good cause! Invite all students to come watch the hair removal or hair dyeing live, or broadcast it via television on the morning announcements. A fun twist is to allow the top fundraising student to shave or dye the hair in any style or pattern he or she wants to. Who knows...your school could be responsible for creating the next big hair trend with this stunt!

You're Suspended!

No, this one won't get you a day off, but it will get you suspended in midair for all to see! Here's how it works: stand on a chair or crate in front of a concrete wall in the school and allow students to place strips of duct tape across your arms, legs, and torso in order to secure you to the wall. Once enough strips of tape have been used, the chair or crate can be removed—leaving you "suspended"! Allow the top 25 fundraising students to be responsible for applying the tape, names from a hat, or come up with your own way to include students in this stunt. Don't believe it will work? Head over to YouTube and search "JDRF Suspend the Principal" for proof

Play Dress Up

Time to dig through that old costume trunk and find something that the kids will go crazy for! Dress like a robot and do the robot dance during gym classes, deck out an avid sports fan in the gear of a rival team, make someone who really hates pink (or another color) dress in the color from head to toe, or wear another sort of costume that students will be psyched to see! There are many options for this stunt, so be creative and have fun with it!

Sing It Loud!

You are about to deliver the performance of a lifetime! Pick a song, recruit some willing colleagues, and prepare a karaoke routine to perform for students. You'll get tons of bonus points for choosing a song that the kids love, wearing creative costumes, and stepping to the beat with perfectly choreographed dance moves.

Make the most out of it by renting a karaoke machine for the day and inviting students to join the fun. Rehearsal starts...now!

I Scream, You Scream!

Your students will love this opportunity to “play with their food” without consequence. Invite a group of students to cover you with ice cream, sprinkles, chocolate sauce, cherries, etc. as the rest of the school cheers them on! Reach out to the local ice cream parlor for donations to help pull this stunt off and consider offering an ice cream party to top students, classrooms, or grades as a nice tie-in. If the idea of getting covered in ice cream leaves you feeling cold, how about renting a hot dog costume and allowing students to add ketchup, mustard, and all the fixings? Or, come up with your own fun way to reward students with a school-approved “food fight”!