

How To Pay For Author/Illustrator Visits

Author visit fees vary widely, but on average, plan for \$800/day (4 sessions) or \$200/session (one hour) plus mileage, airfare, hotel, meals, cabfare, etc.

- Strength in numbers — partner with other schools and colleges.
- Partner with writing/publishing organizations.
- Partner with public library.
- Partner with local businesses.
- Partner with service organizations like Rotary, Kiwanis, women's groups, etc.
- Partner with home school organizations.
- Sell your author's books at your event.
- Obtain support of Parent Teacher Organization.
- Fund author visits from book fair profits.
- Some Title One schools are given money by the Dept of Education for some type of arts-related program - many use it for author visits.
- One school paid for an author visit by making and selling lollipops.
- Some schools fund author visits just like a field trip.
- One school funded an author visit with overdue fines.
- Some schools fund author visits directly with line items in their budget.
- School library budgets can be used for author visits.

- Most school districts belong to BOCES (Board of Cooperative Educational Services) which helps schools use educational dollars effectively without diminishing other sources of funding.
- For seed money for future author visits, consider organizing and hosting a fundraising dinner or other kind of event with bookpeople.
- Make sure your first author event is phenomenal because everything is so much easier after that.
- One school has an "Author Visit Juice Machine" - all profits from that vending machine go straight to author visits. They raise \$2500/year - all the librarian has to do is take it to the bank.
- Colorado Department of Education website (www.cde.state.co.us/grants) has listing of grants for Colo Educators.
- Colorado Council on the Arts (www.ColoArts.state.co.us) has a listing of Foundations and Grants.
- www.ColoradoArtsConsortium.org has links to other arts councils.
- www.ArtsForColorado.org is an advocacy group dedicated to the arts.
- Colorado Endowment for the Humanities (www.ceh.org) has grants for their packaged "Authors in the Classroom" and "Chautauqua" programs through the Colorado Center for the Book (www.ColoradoCenterForTheBook.org).
- Colorado Council for the International Reading Association (www.CCIRA.org) offers a variety of literacy programs and grants.
- The National Endowment for the Arts (www.arts.endow.gov) offers funding through various grants.
- Be creative with your event and with who you approach for funding. Everyone loves to give money to kid programs and to literacy programs. A school literacy program is a double whammy! Expect them to say "YES!"