



Runoko Rashidi Institute (RRI) Adopt-A-Classroom Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is the Adopt-A-Classroom Program?

The Runoko Rashidi Institute's Adopt-A-Classroom Program supports teachers and students through a one-semester partnership that combines financial assistance with African-centered educational engagement. The program honors the legacy of Dr. Runoko Rashidi while helping classrooms deepen cultural understanding, global awareness, and student learning.

Who can apply to be an Adopt-A-Classroom partner?

Current K–12 teachers or instructors (or equivalent educational settings) are welcome to apply. This includes educators in public, charter, private, community-based, and after-school learning environments.

What information is required in the application?

The application is brief and asks for:

- Grade level(s) and subject area taught
- School or educational setting
- Number of students served
- A short statement explaining:
 - How the classroom aligns with African-centered, global African, or world history learning
 - The specific needs of the classroom or students
 - Interest in mentorship, guest speakers, or educational engagement opportunities
- Confirmation of availability to participate in a one-semester partnership

What criteria does RRI use to review applications?

Applications are reviewed thoughtfully by a small RRI Program Review Committee, which may include board members, educators, and program advisors. Reviews focus on:

- Alignment with RRI's mission and the legacy of Dr. Runoko Rashidi
 - Demonstrated classroom or student needs
 - Potential impact on students
 - Opportunities for meaningful mentorship and educational engagement
 - Geographic and grade-level diversity, when possible
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Are certain classrooms prioritized?

Yes. While all eligible applications are carefully considered, priority may be given to classrooms that:

- Serve historically under-resourced or marginalized student populations
 - Integrate African history, the African Diaspora, or global African studies into their curriculum
 - Demonstrate strong interest in mentorship, guest speakers, or project-based learning
 - Clearly outline how financial support will enhance student learning
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How are selected teachers notified?

Selected teachers or instructors are notified by email. They receive:

- A program overview and semester timeline
 - A brief participation agreement outlining expectations
 - Payment details for the \$500 classroom donation
 - An initial planning conversation with RRI representatives
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How is the program implemented once selected?

Once selected:

- Funds are distributed at the start of the semester
- RRI partners with the teacher to plan mentorship and educational engagement activities
- Periodic check-ins take place throughout the semester to support program success

What is expected at the end of the semester?

At the conclusion of the semester, participating teachers may be invited to:

- Share a brief written reflection or testimonial
 - Provide examples of student work or classroom impact
 - Offer feedback to help strengthen future Adopt-A-Classroom program cycles
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Why does RRI include reflection and feedback?

Reflection helps RRI better understand the program's impact, uplift classroom stories, and continually improve the Adopt-A-Classroom Program for future educators and students.