



CLASSROOM EMPOWERMENT GRANTS (2025-26)

APPLY FOR ONE OF
(10) TEN GRANTS OF

\$500

SCAN HERE

Teachers, classroom grant applications are open for 2025-26

Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association (EECA) is once again accepting applications for the annual Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants for the 2025-26 school year.

Teachers, do you have a project or initiative you'd love to bring to life but need extra funding to make it happen? These \$500 grants are designed to support the above-and-beyond ideas inspired by those who work with our children in our schools. Commitment to community is one of our Touchstone Energy principles, and supporting local educators is one of the most meaningful ways EECA invests in the communities it serves.

Each year, EECA awards ten \$500 grants to teachers/educators ready to spark creativity, curiosity, and hands-on learning in their classrooms. These grants are all about empowering students and bringing innovative ideas to life.

Curious what kind of ideas these grants have funded in the past? Check out a few inspiring projects from last year's winners:

■ Mindy Allen James, Marissa Jr/Sr High School – Engaging Novels for High School Students

Mindy used her grant to bring in a collection of popular modern novels, giving students new stories they can relate to that ignite a love of reading.



■ Sharon Fry, Murphysboro Middle School – History Comes Alive

With virtual reality headsets purchased with the grant, Sharon's students could step back in time and explore ancient civilizations like never before!



■ Sara Shepherd, St. John's Lutheran School, Red Bud – Life Skills in the Lab

Sara's grant helped purchase garden tools and food preservation supplies, giving students hands-on experience with science-based life skills.



Rules continued on 18C ►



Egyptian Electric
Cooperative Association
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1732 Finney Road
Murphysboro, IL 62966

Business hours/After hours
800-606-1505

24/7 Automated Pay-by-Phone
855-939-3675

Office hours 8 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. M-F
www.eeca.coop

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Choose your payment option!

- At our office lobby, drive-thru, drop-box, or payment kiosk
- Mail to: 1732 Finney Road, Murphysboro, IL 62966
- Set up recurring bank draft or credit card payments
- Use SmartHub portal, online or mobile app
- By phone at 855-939-3675, using credit card or checking account
- Off-site kiosks located at 2301 N. Reed Station Parkway and 1815 W. Main in Carbondale



Celebrate Coop Month with EECA!

When you contact EECA, you're talking to neighbors who attend your church, whose kids go to school with yours, and whose power goes out when yours does. We're proud to be a part of the communities we serve, and we're committed to providing you with the best service possible.

Locally run since 1938.



MEMBER PRIZES

Every month we will have three member names hidden throughout our Egyptian Electric News section. If you find your name, call our office and identify yourself and the page that it is on and you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.

2025-26 Classroom Empowerment Grant Official Rules (Continued from 18A)

APPLICATION PROCESS

Submit the completed Grant Application Form (pg 6), **and** a double-spaced typewritten request that includes the following:

1. A description of the project, what the project will accomplish, and why it should be selected for funding.
2. The estimated cost of the project based on researched and provided data.
3. An explanation of why funds are necessary for the completion of the project.
4. If other funding options have been pursued, the status of those requests.
5. When the project will be completed.
6. The number of students impacted by the project.
7. How the goals of the project will be measured, and what would determine the project to be a success.
8. How the project ties to our Touchstone Energy core values: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community.

Photos and supporting data are optional, but strongly encouraged. For questions on the program, contact Roni Croxell at 800-606-1505 or rcroxell@eeca.coop.

Applications may be submitted:

- By email to rcroxell@eeca.coop (in one PDF document)
- By mail to Egyptian Electric Cooperative, 1732 Finney Road, Murphysboro, IL 62966
- By fax to 888-554-8181, Attn: Roni Croxell
- Or dropped off at our office drive-thru or outdoor dropbox.

WHO MAY APPLY

Teachers, administrators, and/or qualified employees of K-12 public or private schools within the Egyptian Electric Cooperative (EECA) service territory footprint can apply.

Applications are not limited to public schools, but public schools within our territory are Carbondale, Carterville, Chester, Coulterville, DeSoto, DuQuoin, Elverado, Marissa, Murphysboro, Pinckneyville, Red Bud, Sparta, Steeleville, and Trico.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Qualifying projects are those that improve the learning environment for students and/or increase educational resources for the school.

Applicants and schools are eligible to apply every year, even if the applicant has been a previous recipient. Please note that the school or district does NOT

have to receive electric service from Egyptian Electric Cooperative to qualify.

SELECTION PROCESS

An impartial judging panel will score the applications based on which projects best demonstrate improving the learning environment and/or increasing educational resources for the school. Decision of the judging panel is final.

IMPORTANT DATES

All completed applications must be received by the office of EECA, by **Friday, Nov. 7, 2025**. The winners will be notified no later than Dec. 5. Funded projects must be completed by the end of the 2026 spring semester.

Jared Alms

The Classroom Empowerment Grant application can be found on page 6 or eeca.coop.

EECA returning \$1.3M in Capital Credits to Members

Active members who had service with EECA in 1995 and/or 1996 should have received their capital credit returns as a bill credit on their September electric bill. If your capital credit return was over \$500, it would have been sent to you as a check in the mail. If you had service during those years and have questions, please contact our office at 800-606-1505.

EECA expands EV charging across southern Illinois



Chargers at Glenn Poshard Transportation Education Center at the Southern Illinois Airport, Murphysboro.

Egyptian Electric Cooperative is making electric vehicle (EV) charging more accessible across southern Illinois! Thanks to grants from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Driving a Cleaner Illinois program, EECA has installed or is installing public EV charging stations at several key locations.

Newest locations and status:

- **SIU Main Campus, Carbondale** – across from the Student Center. Direct Current (DC) fast chargers capable of charging multiple vehicles at once are under construction and expected to be live by the end of 2025. **Mark Lunnemann**
- **Touch of Nature Outdoor Education Center, Makanda** – construction is underway to install DC fast chargers at the main entrance which are expected to be live by mid-October 2025.
- **Southern Illinois Airport, Murphysboro** – DC fast chargers are in construction at the Glenn Poshard Transportation Education Center (TEC), and level 2 stations are live and available near the TEC. More DC fast chargers will be installed at the Airport near St. Nicholas Brewing Co. MDH restaurant sometime later this year.

- **Walker's Bluff, Carterville** – Two DC fast chargers will be installed on the west side of Walker's bluff near the EECA level 2 chargers.

Additional EECA level 2 charging stations are already live at Walker's Bluff Casino and Resort, and at the EECA headquarters office in Murphysboro.

EECA's charging stations are accessible 24/7. To help maintain grid reliability, EECA reserves the right to limit charging during times of peak demand.

"These new charging stations make it easier than ever for visitors and residents to drive electric and recharge in our area," said Shane Hermetz, Executive VP/General Manager of EECA. "With electricity being the new fuel, we're proud to provide it and help southern Illinois keep pace with the growth of electric vehicles!"



Blood Drive

Tuesday, October 7th

10am-3pm

at Egyptian Electric Cooperative