



Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

2026/2027 Classroom Empowerment Grant

INFORMATION FOR THE APPLICANT

Review the following information before completing the application. The application form and information can be found on our website, www.siec.org.

WHO MAY APPLY?

Seven \$500 Classroom Empowerment Grants will be provided to K-12 public or private schools in the Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative service territory.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

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

SELECTION PROCESS

An impartial judging panel will judge the applications to determine which projects best serve the goal of improving the learning environment or increases the educational resources for the school.

Projects do not have to be electric related, although encouraged. Decision of the judging panel is final.

IMPORTANT DATES

All completed applications must be received in the offices of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative by ***Friday, November 13, 2026***. Winners will be announced no later than Friday December 18, 2026. Funded projects must be completed by the time school is out for the summer.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Send the completed Grant Application Form, AND a double-space typewritten request (not to exceed 3 pages) that includes the following:

1. A description of the project and what it will accomplish.
2. The estimated cost of the project.
3. An explanation of why funds or additional funds are necessary for the completion of the project.
4. Whether other funding options have been pursued and if so, the status of those requests.
5. When the project will be completed.
6. The number of students impacted by the project.
7. If the project's goals are measurable and how they will be measured and what determines if the project is 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.

Completed grant applications must be received at Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative by 4:00 p.m. November 13, 2026. For questions, contact Brent Goforth at (618) 827-3555 Ext. 208 or bgoforth@siec.org



Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative 2026/2027 Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grant Application

Applicant's Name _____ Title _____

School Name _____

School Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Daytime Phone Number () _____ E-mail _____

Name of Project Submitted _____

Eligibility is limited to schools located in Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative's service area. Teachers and administrators of K-12 public and private schools may apply annually, even if they have been a recipient in years past. Seven \$500 grants will be awarded. For more information about Touchstone Energy, log on at www.touchstoneenergy.coop. Touchstone Energy and Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative reserves the right to photograph the grant winners and use the photos for publicity purposes. Projects must be completed by the time school is out for the summer.

Incomplete entries will be deemed ineligible and will not be judged. **Recipients must provide written proof of completion detailing how the grant funds were used within six months of the project's completion.**

Deadline: Application forms must be received by SIEC by mail, e-mail or fax no later than 4:00 p.m. **Friday, November 13, 2026.** Awards will be announced no later than Friday, December 18, 2026. Checks will be awarded in January 2027.

For additional questions, please call Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (618) 827-3555 Ext. 208 or e-mail Brent Goforth at bgoforth@siec.org. Mail grant applications to: SIEC, Attn: Brent Goforth, P. O. Box 100, Dongola, IL 62926.

Judging Process:

Applications will be reviewed by an impartial panel of judges. If necessary, applicants may be contacted for additional information.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Teacher or Administrator)

If I receive the grant, I pledge to follow all completion requirements and provide written proof of completion within six months of my project's end.