



# Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

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October 12, 2020

Dear Administrators & Teachers:

It's that time of the year, Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative is again offering our Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants to the local schools within our service territory! We continue to be aware that adequate funding for many school systems has been a challenge. Commitment to community is one of our Touchstone Energy core principles, and we are committed to the communities we serve.

There will again be **SEVEN \$500 Classroom Empowerment Grants** that will be awarded to teachers/school administrators for the 2020/2021 school year, to public and private K-12 schools, to support classroom projects that will improve educational opportunities for students. Winning applications will be based on projects that best serve the purpose of improving the learning environment and/or increasing educational resources for the students. Applicants and schools are eligible to apply every year, regardless if they have been a previous recipient.

How to apply? 1) Read the information form, 2) complete the one-page application, 3) include a type-written request, and 4) return to me by the deadline! The grant submissions are due **Thursday, November 5th** and winners will be notified on or before December 11, 2020. I strongly encourage, especially during these trying COVID-19 times, that this opportunity be forwarded to all educators in hopes that they will apply.


Additional information is available on our website at [www.siec.org/community/classroom-empowerment-grants/](http://www.siec.org/community/classroom-empowerment-grants/), including the application, information, and other cooperative information. Please contact me at (618) 827-3555 extension 210 or [jwilke@siec.org](mailto:jwilke@siec.org) should you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Julie Wilke  
Director of Administration and Finance



# Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## 2020 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](http://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 **Thursday, November 5, 2020**. Winners will be announced no later than December 11, 2020. 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 5, 2020. For questions, contact Julie Wilke at (618) 827-3555 Ext. 210 or [jwilke@siec.org](mailto:jwilke@siec.org).



**Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative  
2020/2021 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](http://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. **Thursday, November 5, 2020.** Awards will be announced no later than Friday, December 11, 2020.

For additional questions, please call Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (618) 827-3555 Ext. 210 or e-mail Julie Wilke at [jwilke@siec.org](mailto:jwilke@siec.org). Mail grant applications to: SIEC, Attn: Julie Wilke, 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.*