



## **Class Cash Program: Spring 2026 Grant Cycle**

### **Terms and Conditions**

The Meritus Credit Union Class Cash Program (formerly known as Teacher Grant Program) supports educational excellence in Acadia, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Martin and Vermilion Parishes for initiatives not provided for in school budgets. Meritus Credit Union will fund a maximum of \$2,500 in awards during the grant cycle, not to exceed \$250 per individual grant recipient. The requests funded represent Meritus Credit Union's commitment to our mission.

#### **ELIGIBILITY**

Applicant must be a current educator employed by a school within Meritus Credit Union's field of membership (Acadia, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Martin and Vermilion parish).

- Applicants are not required to be a member of Meritus Credit Union.
- Previous grant recipients can only be awarded one grant per academic school year.
- Immediate family members (spouses, parents, children, siblings) of Meritus Credit Union Board of Directors, Supervisory Committee members and employees are not eligible to apply.

#### **SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATION**

You will need to submit the online grant application form to Meritus Credit Union by the stated deadline, including agreeing to the program terms and conditions.

Online applications will be accepted beginning Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 12:01 am until Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 11:59 pm. Applications submitted outside of this time frame won't be considered.

Meritus Credit Union is not responsible for any undeliverable application entries, or any delay or failure to transmit, process, receive or consider entries.

#### **ACCEPTABLE USE OF FUNDS**

The funds requested must be used for projects, programs or experiences that facilitate teaching and learning in the areas of literacy, STEM, creative, physical education, learning environment or other educational enrichment.

#### **RESTRICTIONS**

The funds requested may not be: (1) used for any purpose prohibited by law or school policy; (2) used for travel budgets; (3) used for renovations in buildings not owned or in long term leases; (4) issued to a recipient more than once a year (runs from August to May); (5) more than \$250.00; (6) used to pay salaries or stipends; (7) for fundraising activities and events or (8) for another agency to distribute as a grant.

#### **NOTIFICATION OF AWARD**

Up to ten (10) grant recipients will be selected per grant cycle. Grantees will be contacted by email and/or phone. Grantees who cannot be contacted within ten (10) business days following the selection process, despite the credit union's best efforts, may be disqualified and another recipient may be selected. Grantees will be publicly announced.

#### **DISBURSEMENT OF GRANTS**

Class grants will be made payable directly to the school in care of the applicant.

Award checks will be presented to grantees at their school. More specific details regarding the check presentation will be communicated to grantees upon notification of award.



Grant funds must be used by May 31, 2026 for the approved purposes outlined in the grantee's application.

When applying for the grant, applicants agree to provide a post grant program evaluation on the initiative being implemented. If it is determined that the approved initiative was not implemented, the school will be responsible for returning the awarded grant.

Meritus Credit Union reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to disqualify any applicant or grantee found to be violating the terms and conditions of the program.

Dollar amounts available for grants are subject to change.

### **POST GRANT PROJECT EVALUATION**

Grantees must complete and submit an online post grant project evaluation, including supporting documentation, within 30 days of expending grant funds. This will provide Meritus Credit Union with specifics on how the grant funds are used. Additional information may be requested from the grantee.

Required supporting documentation (emailed to [communications@merituscu.net](mailto:communications@merituscu.net)):

- At least two (2) photographs of the program, experience, project or supplies funded by the grant award. Submitted photographs may be used for promotional purposes. If submitting photos of minor children, educators must obtain written parental consent for each minor photographed.

Optional: Additional supporting documentation can include:

- Video highlighting the program, experience, project or supplies in action.
- Testimonials, quotes or stories about the impact of the funds.

Failure to submit a completed post grant project evaluation and supporting documentation may disqualify the recipient from receiving a Meritus Credit Union Class Cash program in the future.

### **CONSENT and MEDIA RELEASE**

By applying for this grant, you: (1) allow Meritus Credit Union the right to use your name, mailing address, telephone number and email address to contact you and (2) consent to the use of your picture, voice, recording, likeness, name or video footage by Meritus Credit Union and its agents for any and all purposes including advocacy, education, marketing, advertising or publicity through any media including but not limited to social media, website, exhibition and print without compensation unless prohibited by law.

### **DISCLAIMERS, LIABILITY AND INDEMNIFICATION**

By applying for this grant, you release and discharge Meritus Credit Union, its photographers, officers, directors, employees, assigns, successors and any other designee, from any and all claims and/or demands arising out of or in connection with (1) the use of photograph/film/tape, including but not limited to, any claims for defamation, libel, slander or invasion or right to privacy, or any demands for royalties associated therewith and (2) any and all damages, injuries, claims, causes of actions or losses of any kind resulting from your grant application or receipt or use of any grant funds.

### **HOW TO CONTACT US**

Meritus Credit Union  
Attn: Class Cash Program  
515 Guilbeau Road  
Lafayette, LA 70506

For questions and information, call us at 337-989-2800 or email [communications@merituscu.net](mailto:communications@merituscu.net).