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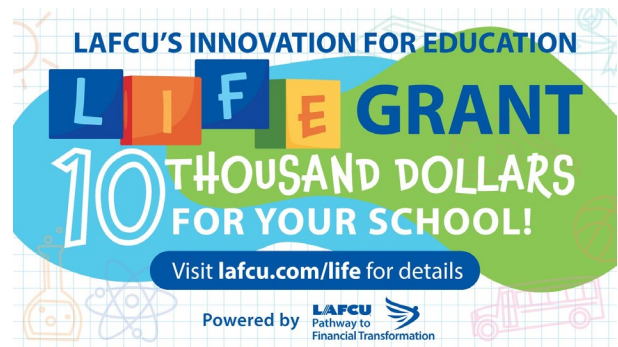
March 28, 2025

LAFCU’s \$10K Innovation for Education grant to fund school improvements

Michigan K-12 schools invited to apply for funding through April 30

LANSING, Mich. — LAFCU is once again inviting Michigan K-12 schools to apply for its Innovation for Education grant by April 30 for a chance to receive \$10,000 to enhance their learning environment. Schools can use the grant for flexible seating, updated technology, equipment upgrades, or special projects such as a school garden or sensory room.

Now in its second year, the LAFCU Innovation for Education (LIFE) grant continues to demonstrate the credit union's commitment to enhancing education



LAFCU is awarding a \$10,000 grant to one Michigan school to support essential improvements and enhance the learning environment.



Perry Upper Elementary students explore STEM projects in a dynamic classroom featuring a vibrant undersea mural, made possible by the LAFCU LIFE grant. Cozy seating, like bean bags and cushioned chairs, adds to the engaging learning atmosphere.

by awarding \$10,000 to support schools in creating a more engaging and enriching environment for both students and staff.

“We recognize the challenges schools face in securing funding for essential improvements,” said Shelia Scott, LAFCU’s community financial education and business development officer. “This grant is designed to help create a more engaging and supportive educational space for students and teachers alike.”

Last year’s recipient was Eric Bentley, STEM teacher at Perry Upper Elementary School, who used

the funding to equip his students with innovative learning tools, including programmable robots, engineering resources, sensory seating, and an undersea-themed mural.

“This grant truly transformed my classroom,” said Bentley. “It gave my students hands-on learning opportunities that sparked creativity and problem-solving. The programmable robots and engineering resources have made STEM concepts more interactive, while the mural turned our space into a vibrant, inspiring environment that fuels curiosity and exploration. I’m incredibly grateful to LAFCU for making this possible.”

To apply, entrants must submit an online application by April 30, along with a link to a short video—between three and five minutes—explaining how they would use the funds and the impact the upgrades would have on students and staff. The winning school will be announced May 15.

The contest is open to all Michigan K-12 schools, with applications accepted from teachers, administrators, parent-teacher organizations, and school councils or clubs.

For more details and to apply, visit www.lafcu.com/life.

About LAFCU

Founded in 1936, LAFCU (pronounced laugh-cue) is a not-for-profit, member-owned credit union open to all who live, work, worship or attend school in Michigan, and to Michigan businesses. LAFCU serves more than 74,000 members and holds over \$1 billion in assets. With a particular focus on serving people of modest means, LAFCU is committed to enhancing its members' financial well-being and creating long-lasting positive change across generations. Awarded the prestigious Dora Maxwell Social Responsibility Community Service Award, LAFCU is known for its people-helping-people mission, which has led to award-winning financial literacy programs for all ages. Twice honored as a national ‘Best Credit Union to Work For’ and recognized globally for its diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, LAFCU stands out for its commitment to creating an inclusive workplace. Learn more at www.lafcu.com.

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