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Suncoast Credit Union awards \$3.75 million in education funding, largest investment in Foundation's history

Foundation expanding impact with five new partners receiving funds

TAMPA, Fla., Sept. 10, 2026 – Continuing its commitment to supporting students across Florida, the [Suncoast Credit Union Foundation](#) will award nearly \$3.75 million in grants for the 2026-2027 school year. The funding will support educational initiatives that empower students from kindergarten through college to succeed both in and out of the classroom.

This commitment reflects a **13% increase** over the previous year and highlights the Foundation's ongoing mission of supporting the education, health and emotional well-being of children in communities served by [Suncoast Credit Union](#).

By the numbers

- ✓ \$3.75 million in total grants
- ✓ 13% increase year over year
- ✓ \$3.23 million for K-12 education
- ✓ \$520,100 for colleges and universities
- ✓ Funding will be distributed across 18 Florida counties plus statewide programs

"Founded in 1934 by educators, Suncoast Credit Union is proud to support students, educators and communities across Florida, a commitment we've upheld for more than 90 years," said Kevin Johnson, president and CEO of Suncoast Credit Union. "Education is one of the most important tools for changing lives and strengthening communities. Through these investments, we're helping create opportunities for the next generation to learn, grow and excel."

This year, the Foundation is expanding its support to include new communities. The Foundation added five new education partners, including the Dixie, Marion and Osceola education foundations, along with Polk State College and South Florida State College.

The topic of literacy emerges as a major theme in this year's funding. Multiple grants support literacy-related items:

- Early literacy initiatives in Hillsborough
- Family literacy programs in Lee County

- Book vending machine projects in Hernando and Charlotte counties
- Literacy and school supply initiatives in Levy County
- Early language and literacy programs at Florida Gulf Coast University

The funding will also help other innovative programs including AI training for teachers and college readiness/workforce development initiatives for students.

Hillsborough County will receive the largest county-level investment in the credit union's service area. In Southwest Florida, the Foundation will invest significantly in education initiatives across Charlotte, Collier and Lee counties, supporting classroom grants, family literacy programs, teacher development and student scholarships.

The Foundation is funded with four cents each time a Suncoast member uses their debit or credit card. Grants are awarded exclusively to tax-exempt organizations within the credit union's service areas that demonstrate measurable impact on the education, health and emotional well-being of children. Since its inception in 1990, the Foundation has provided more than \$63 million in funding to organizations around Florida.

When members use their Suncoast debit or credit cards, the dollars generated stay in their local communities. As a result, every card swipe helps support schools and organizations serving children where members live. It's a simple but powerful way for members to give back and make a lasting impact close to home. **Program details can be found [HERE](#).**

"Our members help generate funds every time they use their debit or credit card, a unique way to see that money reinvested back into the community," said Jeff Kunberger, executive director of Suncoast Credit Union Foundations. "This type of commitment underscores our 'people helping people' philosophy, quite literally, and we're thrilled to deliver that support to students across Florida."

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About Suncoast Credit Union

[Suncoast Credit Union](#) is the largest credit union in Florida, the seventh largest in the United States by membership and the 10th largest by assets, with more than \$22 billion in assets. Chartered in 1934 as Hillsborough County Teachers Credit Union, Suncoast operates 98 full-service branches and serves more than 1.5 million members statewide. As a local, community-focused credit union, anyone who lives, works or attends school in Suncoast's service area is eligible for membership. In August 2026, members of Launch Credit Union approved a merger with Suncoast. Launch will operate as Launch, a Branch of Suncoast Credit Union, during the transition period while the organizations work toward full operational integration by mid-2027. Guided by its "people helping people" philosophy, Suncoast is dedicated to supporting the communities it serves. Since 1990, the [Suncoast Credit Union Foundation](#) has raised and donated more than \$68 million to organizations and initiatives that support the health, education and emotional well-being of children. For more information, visit suncoast.com or follow us on social media: [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) and [Instagram](#).