



CHS Foundation/CoBank National Agriculture in the Classroom Classroom Grant Application Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in applying for one of the 2025 CHS Foundation/CoBank National Agriculture in the Classroom's Classroom Grants. The \$500 grants will be awarded to pre-kindergarten through 12th grade general education teachers whose innovative classroom projects use agricultural concepts to teach reading, writing, math, nutrition, science, and/or social studies. Agri-science teachers may apply for the grant, but they must demonstrate how the project being proposed will reach outside their agri-science classrooms to other classes in the same school or other schools, including elementary schools. The online application will become available on the National Agriculture in the Classroom's website October 1. The deadline for grant proposals is November 15. Recipients will be notified by email by the end of December.

Grant Requirements:

The CHS Foundation/CoBank Classroom Grant Program is designed to fund projects that will educate Pre-K-12 students about the importance of agriculture and allow teachers to use agricultural concepts to teach core subject areas. Those who receive one of the 40 grants will be required to:

- Use at least two lessons from the National Agricultural Literacy Curriculum Matrix on the National Agriculture in the Classroom website at www.agclassroom.org or from their state Agriculture in the Classroom program.
- Provide an itemized budget using provided [Classroom Grant Budget Form](#).
- Demonstrate how they will involve a local farmer, rancher, or agriculture industry representative in the project.

CHS Foundation will highlight the winning classroom grants at its annual meeting in December each year.

Timeline:

- Grant proposals must be submitted online beginning October 1, 2025.
- The deadline for proposals is November 15, 2025.
- Applicants will be notified via email in December.
- Projects must be completed by June 1, 2026.
- Final report due to National Agriculture in the Classroom by June 30, 2026.

Eligible Applicants:

Certified, general education teachers who are employed by a school district or a private school, who engaged in classroom instruction at the pre-kindergarten through 12th grade level and who wish to use agricultural concepts to teach core subject areas and enhance students' understanding of agriculture. Agri-science teachers may apply for the grant, but they must demonstrate how the project being proposed will reach outside their agri-science classrooms to other classes in the same school or other schools, including elementary schools.

Funding Guidelines:

- 40 \$500 grants will be awarded.
- Grant money can be used for any agriculture-based school project that aims to increase ag literacy among students through use of agricultural concepts as context for core subject areas.
 - Grant money can be used for animal science projects involving embryology, aquaculture or ranch-related projects, field trips, or farm tours.
 - Grant money can be used for classroom or schoolyard gardens. *Because of food safety concerns, animal waste manure is not to be used on edible plants (fruits, vegetables, herbs) if a school garden is part of the project. Grant applicants will be asked to agree to follow safe handling guidelines for any compost used in a school garden that is part of this project to reduce the risk of plant and human disease-causing organisms. These organisms are killed when internal temperatures are maintained between 130-170 degrees F over a period of several days. Additional information about composting and national and state resources can be found on the U.S. Composting website at www.compostingcouncil.org.*
- Grant money cannot be used for salary or compensation.
- Grant money cannot be used for clothing, promotional items, or giveaway items.
- Grant check will be made payable to the school, not to an individual.
- Grant checks not cashed within 60 days after receipt will become null and void.

Grant Requirements:

- Pre-K-12 students must be directly involved in project.
- Use of lessons from the National Agricultural Literacy Curriculum Matrix and/or state Agriculture in the Classroom programs must be described in the application and final report.
 - Teachers will be asked to demonstrate the use of these lessons by completing a 'Lesson Plan Reflection' that describes the number of instructional hours and students involved, the type of teaching strategies used, additional activities presented and evidence that students understood the objectives of the lesson plan at the end of the project.
- A budget and project timeline must be included with your application.
- A letter of support from a school administrator indicating support of the project is required.
- A final report is due to National Agriculture in the Classroom no later than June 30 each year. Please upload photos from the project into the final report form and signed copies of photo release forms for students appearing in the photos.