



## Watch out for SCHOOL-RELATED SCAMS

Students are back in the classroom and scammers are ready to strike. High school and college students, as well as their parents, should watch out for these trending scams.

### The student tax scam

In this tactic, a crook posing as the IRS calls a college-bound student informing them that they have failed to pay the "student tax." If it is not paid immediately, the "agent" says the student will not be allowed to attend school and may even face jail time.

IRS scams like this one can happen at any time of the year and are especially common before the start of a new school year. Remember:

- The "student tax" does not exist.
- The IRS will never initiate contact with a taxpayer through a phone call or demand payment through a prepaid debit card, gift card, wire transfer, or cryptocurrency.

### Scholarship scams

With this scam, a fraudster posing as a company or organization promises you a grant or scholarship for an upfront payment like a "processing cost" or "redemption fee." The Federal Trade Commission reports that other scammers might say you've been selected as a "finalist" for a scholarship award that you never applied for and it requires an upfront fee. Sometimes these fake companies ask for your checking account or credit card information to "confirm eligibility," then criminals take money from the account or use your credit card.

Never pay to apply for a scholarship or grant, and don't provide your banking information to anyone, this includes your username, password, or account and card numbers. A legitimate organization like MSGCU will never ask you to pay or send private banking information when applying for our annual scholarship program.

### Social media scam

In these scams, victims are targeted through their social media platforms and offered incredible deals for items they might purchase for school. The "deals" can be presented in the form of deeply discounted gift cards for popular stores, expensive technology at bargain prices, and more. Crooks might share social media ads about buying the latest tablet for \$19.99 or purchasing a \$1,000 gift certificate for your favorite clothing store for \$250. These offers are fake and if the victim clicks on the ad or any links in the post, their device can be infected with malware. This allows the criminal to gain access to personal data like your banking details, which they use to steal your money.



Always ignore these types of offers and never click on social media ads that sound too good to be true; it's a scam!

Finally, if you think you're a victim of a scam or fraudulent activity, contact MSGCU immediately so we can help. Visit [msgcu.org/contactus](https://msgcu.org/contactus) to get in touch with our team.

# THANK YOU SO MUCH

October 19 — join us!

We're celebrating **Member Appreciation Day** and recognizing International Credit Union Day. Stop by any of our 19 branch offices for snacks and a small gift to thank you for choosing MSGCU as your financial champion.

## COMING SOON!

## MSGCU Scholarship Program

Paying for your education at a college, university, or technical school can be expensive. MSGCU is here to help reduce the financial burden on local students and their families by offering more than \$100,000 in scholarships every year. Our next scholarship program opens for applications in early January 2024. Check [msgcu.org/scholarships](https://msgcu.org/scholarships) for more details as the new year gets closer.

## Design a debit card for a chance to win a \$75 account deposit

We want to see your creative skills! If you could choose a design for your debit card, what would it look like? Put your skills to work on the template we've provided at [msgcu.org/debitdesign](https://msgcu.org/debitdesign) to illustrate your idea. Snap a photo of your creation and email it along with your name, age, address, and phone number to [contest@msgcu.org](mailto:contest@msgcu.org). Every teen with a winning entry will receive a \$75 deposit\* in their MyMoney.club account.

**Deadline for entry is Monday, November 20.**

\*Contest limited to members ages 13 to 19. No substitution for prizes. Winners must be a MyMoney.club member of MSGCU at the time of selection. No purchase necessary. Only one entry per member. The winners will be contacted during the month of December. By submitting this entry, you consent to the reproduction and or authorize the use of your images, words and likeness for promotional and educational purposes by MSGCU. Relatives of MSGCU employees and Official Family members are not eligible to win.



### Mark Your Calendars

**Columbus Day (Closed)**

Monday, Oct. 9

**Veterans Day (Closed)**

Saturday, Nov. 11

**Contest Deadline**

Monday, Nov. 20

**Thanksgiving (Closed)**

Thursday, Nov. 23

**Christmas (Closed)**

Monday, Dec. 25

**New Year's Day (Closed)**

Monday, Jan. 1, 2024



#### Visit a branch

Find your nearest branch or make an appointment at [msgcu.org/locations](https://msgcu.org/locations)

Mon–Wed: 9 AM–5 PM  
Thu–Fri: 9 AM–6 PM  
Sat: 9 AM–1 PM



#### Find us online

It's easy to stay in touch. Visit [msgcu.org/contact-us](https://msgcu.org/contact-us)

Mon–Wed: 9 AM–5 PM  
Thu–Fri: 9 AM–6 PM  
Sat: 9 AM–1 PM



#### Call or text

Phone: (586) 263-8800  
Toll Free: (866) 674-2848

Mon–Wed: 8 AM–5 PM  
Thu: 8 AM–6 PM  
Fri: 8 AM–7 PM  
Sat: 8 AM–1 PM