

The Wednesday Reader

April 15, 2020

Graduation and School Year-End Recommendations Information Sent to County & District Superintendents

Below is a memo sent Thursdays, April 9, to county and district superintendents; I want to be sure you all are in the loop as it addresses spring events and continued distance/remote learning. Stay safe.

DATE: April 9, 2020

TO: District and County Superintendents

FROM: The Office of Public Instruction
The Board of Public Education
The Montana Public Education Center

RE: Graduation and School Year-End Recommendations

Dear District and County Superintendents,

We are writing to offer guidance as you plan for school year-end activities including graduation ceremonies. At this time, the Governor is making public policy decisions in two-week timeframes based on the best available advice from public health officials. As school leaders, we know that you would like additional certainty in planning the rest of your academic year.

At this time, national health authorities are stating that social distancing recommendations will be in place at least through May and possibly into the summer. We can expect that even if the Governor's "Stay At Home" and "School Closure" directives are lifted after April 24 that social distancing guidelines will still be recommended.

Therefore, we advise that you plan to continue your distance learning plans through the remainder of this school year and also plan to not hold large-scale in-person graduation ceremonies. We encourage you to postpone graduation ceremonies until later in the year or come up with alternative plans to honor your graduates, ensuring equity in recognition for all students, including special education students.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Darlene Schottle, Board of Public Education
Kirk Miller, School Administrators of Montana
Lance Melton, Montana School Boards Association
Dennis Parman, Montana Rural Education Association
Eric Feaver, Montana Federation of Public Employees
Dianne Burke, Montana Quality Education Coalition
Denise Williams, Montana Association of School Business Officials

Perkins & State CTE/VoEd Funding Intent to Apply for 2020-2021 School Year Due Thursday, April 30

The Office of Public Instruction has again this year combined both the Federal Carl D. Perkins 'Intent to Apply' AND the State CTE/VoEd Funding application for school districts' convenience.

You can apply for one or both funding programs using this one electronic form. The online link to access and complete the combined Federal and State Funding application is now available here. <https://app.keysurvey.com/f/1471437/5a42>.

Authorized Representatives of Local Education Agencies (LEAs) will use the online link to access and complete the brief electronic form for the 2020-2021 E-Grants cycle. All public high schools and K-12 districts with qualifying Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs are eligible to apply for funding. Elementary districts are not eligible for Perkins or State CTE/VoEd monies.

Districts will NOT receive a 2020-2021 Perkins or State CTE/VoEd allocation unless this electronic form is completed and submitted online at the OPI on or before the deadline.

These designations are binding and cannot be changed once allocations have been downloaded into the E-Grants system. The online link is located at <https://app.keysurvey.com/f/1471437/5a42>.

The deadline for submission of the combined application is Thursday, April 30, 2020.

If you have any questions please contact Ian Beagles, CTE Data Control Specialist, at ian.beagles@mt.gov or by phone at 406.444.9019.

Perkins Spring CTE Now Collection—Identification of CTE Concentrators—Due April 30

The Spring CTE Collection began March 2 and closes April 30, 2020.

The 2019-2020 Spring CTE Collection will be different this year for all districts. As per the new Perkins V rules starting this year, there are some significant changes to be aware of when reporting CTE concentrators to the OPI:

--All high school students can now qualify to be CTE concentrators (not just 12th grade students).

--Data is only being collecting if a student is a concentrator and/or if they are a single parent in Infinite Campus.

--The Montana Career Pathways (no longer areas of concentration) are to be identified for each student. A student can have multiple pathways. OPI is providing a separate [Perkins MT Career Pathways template](#) to identify these.

--The number of credits to qualify for a CTE concentrator is now two (2) credits or four (4) semesters of CTE courses.

Due to these changes in CTE definitions with Perkins V, an interim user [AIM guide](#) has been created to assist with the data collection process for this year only. (OPI is expecting screen updates in AIM to accommodate these changes for next year's spring collection.)

For this year only, after identifying the CTE concentrator students in Infinite Campus, all districts will need to extract their CTE concentrator data from Infinite Campus and copy it into a new 'Perkins MT Career Pathways' template. All districts will use this template to mark each student's Career Pathway(s). Then, all districts will send this completed template containing their CTE concentrators marked with their career pathways using the secure Montana [ePASS](#) system to Ian Beagles at the OPI.

The links to the interim CTE user guide for 2019-2020 and the new Perkins MT Career Pathways template for all districts are below.

Links to the 2019-2020 Spring CTE User Guide and Perkins Template:

--[2019-2020 Spring CTE Collection User Guide](#)

--[Perkins MT Career Pathways Template](#)

Links to Montana Career Pathways and Secondary Programs of Study:

--[CTE Montana Career Pathways Secondary Programs of Study](#)

--[Montana Career Pathways Website](#)

For questions relating to this process, please contact the AIM Help Desk at OPIAIMHelp@mt.gov or by phone at 877.424.6681 or 406.444.3800.

EVERFI Courses and Materials to Support At-Home, Online, and Remote Learning

EVERFI (everfi.com) is here for your remote-learning needs, and many districts across the US (and Montana) are partnering with EVERFI to support distance education in this time of at-home learning.

With 20 different courses for K-12 that are standards-aligned, state recommended, and always free, EVERFI provides full local support for you to get set up and use our digital resources with your students. Creating a teacher dashboard and giving your students access to these self-guided, self-grading materials is quick and easy.

Through this unique circumstance, EVERFI has been hard at work creating material to support you.

Check out:

- [The full list of courses](#)
- [The Teacher Portal](#) (for more information, and to get signed up on your own)
- [A 2-week learning plan guide](#) (interactive pdf)

Additionally, EVERFI pairs very well with Google Classroom.

To get set up, or for tips and tricks for using EVERFI with Google Classroom or for remote learning in general, contact your local support, Sean Thomas at 208.731.7746 or sthomas@everfi.com.

Online Resources for Remote Instruction for Teachers, Students, and Parents from ISTE

The [International Society for Technology in Education](#) (ISTE) has partnered with more where more than 30 organizations to curated free tools, strategies, tips and best practices for teaching online at [Learning Keeps Going](#), learningkeepsgoing.org.

[Learning Keeps Going](#) offers guidance, best practices and strategies from experts in the field to assist teachers in online learning. At [Learning Keeps Going](#), hundreds of companies are making their digital education tools free to schools and students during extended closures.

Visit [Learning Keeps Going](#) for lessons, ideas and tips to help you guide your students as they make the shift to online learning.

Compiled Listing of Resources to Support Teaching from CSTA

With the outbreak of COVID-19, the [Computer Science Teachers Association](#) (CSTA) knows that many teachers will be supporting their students remotely. Teaching CS is already difficult, and moving to a virtual environment can be challenging, so they have compiled a list of resources to help teachers support their students during this time.

The following link provides resources for taking care of yourself, teaching about coronavirus, preparing for online learning, online professional learning for teachers, and online learning resources for students. Please check out all the resources at csteachers.org/page/csta-compiled-resources-to-support-teaching-during-covid-19.

Check out additional free online educational technology resources at thejournal.com/Articles/2020/03/13/Free-Resources-Ed-Tech-Companies-Step-Up-During-Coronavirus-Outbreak.aspx?Page=1. Here, you can get links to the Amazon Future Engineer curriculum, Discovery Education, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, K12 Inc, and the Smithsonian.

Free Access to CompuScholar Online Curriculum and Applications Open for Teacher Summer Professional Development

[CompuScholar](#) (compusolar.com) is offering free access to their online classes for schools impacted by COVID-19.

[CompuScholar](#) offers online turn-key courses for AP Computer Science A; Computer Skills; Introductory Programming with language options for C#, Java, and Python; Unity Game Programming, and Web Design.

Teachers interested in signing up can get more information at compusolar.com/schools/news/2020/03/16/free-access-for-schools-closed-by-coronavirus.

Additionally, CompuScholar offers [free skill building](#) professional development opportunities which are all web-based and can be completed without travel. Details about offerings and to apply for the summer session, please visit

compuscholar.com/schools/outreach/skill-building. Teachers interested in completing a CompuScholar skill building training may request approval for OPI renewal units from your local district.

Learn to Teach Stanford's Introduction to Logic in High Schools

[Intrologic \(intrologic.stanford.edu/homepage/index.html\)](https://intrologic.stanford.edu/homepage/index.html) is a free Stanford-developed curriculum that can be taught as a standalone course or embedded in a course. It is suitable for grades 9-12.

The course addresses the Data and Analysis & Algorithms and Programming concepts in the CSTA Teaching Framework.

Logic is to Computer Science as Calculus is to Physics. So far, this essential mathematical training is not available to programmers being trained in high schools.

The course is well-tested as it has been taught at Stanford University for over 20 years, and it is now offered as a MOOC that has attracted over 625,000 enrolled students. The topics covered include propositional logic, relational logic, deduction, and proofs.

The course will be jointly taught by Stanford professor Michael Genesereth and award-winning high school teachers—Robert Luciano and Michael Towne.

The tuition is \$750 excluding any travel or lodging. A limited number of tuition scholarships are available.

Eight Different Locations

- [Chicago](#): June 22-26
- [New England \(Boston\)](#): June 29-July 3
- [Philadelphia](#): June 29-July 3
- [Atlanta](#): July 6-10
- [Houston](#): July 13-17
- [Seattle](#): July 20-24
- [Stanford](#): July 20-24
- [Los Angeles](#): July 27-31

Access to CodeHS Pro for Free Until June 30 Plus Virtual Resources and Events

[CodeHS \(codehs.com\)](https://codehs.com) knows schools, communities, and families have a host of challenges adjusting to schools closing or moving to a virtual learning setup. Here are some free CodeHS resources available to better support teachers during this transition:

- CodeHS Pro is now available for free to teachers through June 30
- Check out the Virtual Learning Guide with best practices at codehs.com/virtual.
- Join upcoming virtual events and meetups to connect with other CS teachers. Learn more and register at codehs.com/virtualevents.
- Access over 40 computer science courses and supplemental materials to keep your students engaged.

To activate CodeHS Pro and access all the virtual learning resources, visit codehs.com/virtual or email hello@codehs.com. The CodeHS Team is here to support you and your computer science classes, whether that is virtually or in the classroom.

Online Resources from Oracle Academy

As faculty across the globe work to engage with students in an online 21st-century environment, Oracle wants to let you know that [Oracle Academy \(academy.oracle.com\)](https://academy.oracle.com) offers online resources for teaching and learning, anytime, anywhere for FREE.

Using a browser, faculty and students can access Oracle Academy resources including:

--Free [curriculum and learning resources](#) with exams, quizzes, and answer keys to show evidence of learning, plus How To Guides, all available to members through the Oracle Academy [learning management system](#) platform

--[Oracle Academy Education Bytes](#): diverse learning experiences that reinforce key concepts and include hands-on labs, projects and challenges, and videos and presentations

--Fun [Oracle Academy Workshops in a Box](#) that make computing fun and engaging while leveraging best academic practices like project-based learning and assessments

--Free online [Resource Library](#), offering a variety of forums, sites, and learning materials

Thank you for joining Oracle Academy in their mission to advance computing education globally to increase knowledge, innovation, skills development, and diversity in technology fields.

Guidance Regarding 2019-2020 Perkins Spending & CTE Distance Learning Resources

Now that all scheduled conferences have been cancelled through the end of the school year, many schools have been asking about Perkins funds that were set aside for professional development. We have NOT received any guidance from the Department of Education about extending Perkins spending past June 30, so we recommend the following:

--You do not have to use your funds for professional development. If you choose to use monies for other purposes, you will need to submit an amendment to move funds to another budget category. All CTE Specialists are available to assist you.

--You may need additional supplies/equipment to address online learning.

--While Perkins requires schools to spend their allocation on items needed for the current school year, you may purchase CTE textbooks, equipment, or supplies for a new course or emerging pathway in order for your teacher(s) to train this year for the new course or pathway.

If you choose to offer professional development for teachers, the Montana Association of Career & Technical Education (Montana ACTE) has the following online programs available. These are currently being offered at no cost.

Distance learning resources from the Association for Career & Technical Education: acteonline.org/professional-development/opportunities/distance-learning-resources.

Transition to Teaching Online: Go to [Online Teachers](#) on CTE Learn and click on *Delivering Online Instruction*. You'll see the following online courses that you can access for free.

- EL102 Online Teaching Techniques
- EL103 Teaching Online: A Student-Centered Approach
- EL104 Teaching and Organizing a Virtual Learning Environment
- EL105 Online Language: Communicating with Students
- EL108 Preparing Students to Become Good Online Learners
- EL112 Workload Management Strategies for Teaching Online

Register/login on the [CTE Learn](#) site and enter the master key "MK-ACTE" to enroll in any of the above courses. This complimentary key is valid through May 1. Contact support@ctelearn.org if you have any questions.

CTE Learn courses are self-paced and each course takes approximately four hours to complete. Designed and developed specifically for the CTE community, our courses focus on practical strategies and techniques that participants can apply right away.

Information to Access No-Charge Resources from B.E. Publishing for Online Instruction thru June 30

With schools all across America rapidly closing due to the Coronavirus crisis, [BE Publishing](#) (bepublishing.com) recognizes the need for quality online instructional material is critical during this trying time.

Therefore, [BE Publishing](#) is offering free access to their resources for use in online instruction. Below is important information on how to obtain their online programs and curriculum for students and teachers at no charge through **June 30, 2020**. It is their way of 'pitching in' during these unsettling times, as schools across America rely on online instruction.

These resources provide teachers with a host of CTE content including eTexts, instructor resources, student worksheets, and a lot more. It is [BE Publishing](#)'s hope that this will give you and your students the tools for effective and engaging online instruction and learning.

Please click the following link and complete a short form that will link to a document with instructions to access the free materials: <https://mailchi.mp/bepublishing.com/get-resources>.

BE Publishing would like to hear some short stories about you are using their resources with your students. Stories can be submitted directly to Michael Gecawich, President and Founder of BE Publishing, at michael@bepublishing.com.

Energize Your Classroom with Real-World Lessons from the Wall Street Journal

This Spring, energize your classroom with fresh, real-world lessons from [The Wall Street Journal's Critical Thinking Resource](#).

Curated by specialized faculty members—the newly updated collection of WSJ articles can be easily integrated into your classes with tangible examples of course concepts that students can apply in the real world.

Save time preparing for your lectures with relevant and timely articles and thought-provoking questions that can be used in assignments, quizzes and discussions.

Visit go.dowjones.com/critical-thinking-resource-business/?mod=wsj_ctrlaunch to gain access.

Adobe Offering Free Access to Creative Cloud for Students thru May

Do you currently use Adobe Creative Cloud applications in your classroom or lab? If so, Adobe is offering free access to Creative Cloud tools through May for home use by students attending schools that currently only provide lab access through May.

To provide access to your students during school closures/online instruction, please go to helpx.adobe.com/enterprise/kb/covid-19-education-labs.html. Schools/districts will need to enter their Adobe Admin Console URL within the application for access.

Start Here. Go Places.® Shares Free Virtual Resources for Taking Your Classroom Online

As the nation responds to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), teachers across the country are being challenged to maintain a robust learning environment without physical access to a classroom.

One of the core guiding principles at the AICPA is to keep their members and students at the heart of everything they do. They believe that introducing high school students early into the accounting profession will help fill a talented pipeline with future CPAs. This is possible because of teachers, like you, who push and encourage students to start their journey in this profession.

To help keep your students engaged, inspired and informed from afar, AICPA and [Start Here. Go Places.®](#) pulled together a list of free online tools, games and resources that can be shared with both parents and students:

1. Virtual Classroom Support

Looking for virtual classroom advice? [Accounting Is Analytics](#) - an online accounting teaching resource developed by accounting professors at Kent State University, the University of South Florida and Austin Community College, are hosting webinars this week for teachers who are moving classes online. Visit their website to sign up for their webinars today.

2. Bank On It Online Accounting Game

If your students crave a little friendly competition, our [Bank On It](#) game is the perfect way for them to see who is most fluent in accounting principles. The game will put their knowledge to the test and present them with real, working-world scenarios. In the

absence of college basketball's March contest, try the Bank On It tournament functionality and create a competition bracket within your classroom. For instructions on how to set this up, click [here](#).

3. Free Online Learning Platforms

Students can continue learning about the accounting profession outside of the classroom with [Khan Academy](#) and [EverFi](#) -- two free online learning platforms with sections that explore accounting, finance, and business topics at a pace that's right for them. For learning in short spurts, students can also download [Accounting Bootcamp](#) by Southern Illinois University Edwardsville on the [Apple App Store](#).

4. Virtual Field Trips

Students can visit the wonderful world of accounting - all in the comfort of their PJs - with our [Virtual Field Trips](#). Since 2012, we've visited 14 CPAs across different industries to explore their roles and to give an inside scoop on what it's like to be an accountant.

5. Virtual Games

Staying home doesn't mean students can't have a little bit of fun together - and learn along the way! Invite students to play a variety of games using video conferencing resources (like [Zoom](#) and [Webex](#)) that are offered free to K-12 schools. For those who love a good quiz show, Indiana University of Pennsylvania developed an [accounting Jeopardy](#) slide deck that also allows you to create your own questions. If your students are more into board games, Labyrinth Learning developed a way to learn [accounting through Monopoly](#). If you have the board game at home, you can serve as a game master while your students play along online.

6. Free Internet Access

For some students, virtual learning may not be possible because of financial constraints. Internet providers, like [Spectrum](#) and [Comcast](#), are offering free internet access for 60 days and free installation to households with either K-12 or college students who don't currently use the service.

As always, AICPA and [Start Here. Go Places.](#)[®] are here to help support you during this uncertain time. If you need additional help or have an idea for a fun resource they can provide, feel free to email them at startheregoplaces@aicpa.org.

Types of Credit Mini-Release, Online MATH activity, Revamped Resources, & More from Next Gen Personal Finance

If you want resources to give students while teaching remotely, Next Gen Personal Finance ([ngfp.org](#)) has you covered.

For the month of March, the curriculum team focused on the Types of Credit unit so that your students have up-to-date activities and resources they can engage with, even outside of the classroom.

In this unit update, you'll find:

- Engaging [EdPuzzle](#) videos on Types of Credit
- A brand new [Math](#) activity on loan payments for a car and home
- New and updated NGPF [Types of Credit](#) resources you know and love
- Resources that will help you [brush up on your content knowledge](#) so you can feel even more confident to teach different types of credit to your students.

Enjoy and [let NGPF know how these resources go in your classroom](#).

Explore all Types of Credit Resources at ngpf.org/curriculum/types-of-credit.

EdPuzzle Videos

EdPuzzles are a fun and engaging way to show videos to your students and check for understanding. Here are some new and teacher favorite EdPuzzles.

- [Using Your Credit Card](#)
- [Loan Basics](#)
- [Comparing Cards](#)
- [Student Loans 101](#)

- [How Cars Keep You Poor](#)
- [How Do You Actually Buy a House?](#)

PRO TIP: Want more EdPuzzle videos? Visit the NGPF [Video Library](#) and type in "EdPuzzle" into the search bar at the top to view the rest of our EdPuzzle videos.

MATH Activity

If you're looking to incorporate both math and personal finance into your course, look no further. In [MATH: Auto and Mortgage Monthly Payments](#), students will practice calculating monthly costs of auto and mortgage loan payments. They will take into account how much money they need to borrow, how long the loan is, and annual interest rates. They'll first watch a LEARN IT video (writing out each step in order of operations) and a PRACTICE IT video (using a graphing calculator) and then have the opportunity to do the math themselves.

New and Improved

The [Types of Credit](#) unit is now filled with new and improved resources to use with your students. Check out some of them below:

- [FINE PRINT: Mortgage Bill](#)*
- [FINE PRINT: Schumer Box](#)*
- [DATA CRUNCH: When Do College Students Use Credit Cards?](#)*
- [DATA CRUNCH: How Easy Is It To Get A Loan?](#)*
- [DATA CRUNCH: What Interest Rate Do Consumers Pay on Their Credit Cards?](#)*
- [COMPARE: Auto Loans](#)
- [COMPARE: Which Repayment Option Is Best?](#)
- [CALCULATE: Shopping with Interest](#)

Items with an asterick (*) indicates no-tech required. Check out more Non-Tech Resources [here](#).

Brush Up on Content Knowledge

Want to brush up on your Types of Credit content knowledge? Check out the [Types of Credit Content Guide 1-Pager](#).

Grants and Personal Finance Simulation from Stukent

[Stukent](#) (stukent.com) is a digital courseware provider in the high school and higher education space. Stukent's mission is to help educators help students help the world; it achieves this by developing and providing first-in-the-world courseware in the form of real-world simulations, up-to-date digital textbooks, video lectures from industry experts, and more.

Stukent's Mimic Personal Finance simulation (stukent.com/mimic-personal-finance) provides a safe environment for students to make some of life's most important decisions. Students make realistic financial decisions and see firsthand the consequences of acquiring debt, building credit, paying taxes, and buying stocks. Students will navigate a natural, differentiated learning experience to define financial success for themselves.

To further the goal of increasing financial literacy in young adults, Stukent is offering \$4 million in grants to provide personal finance courseware entirely free to the first 2,000 high schools nationwide that request free access for the 2019–2020 school year.

If you are a Jump\$tart member and sign up for the free trial, you are automatically guaranteed a place among the 2,000 high schools.

Visit stukent.com/jumpstart to learn more, and enter promo code "Jump\$tart VIP" to automatically join the free trial.

For more information about Mimic Personal Finance and Stukent, contact vice president of marketing Garrett Brock via email at garrett.brock@stukent.com.

Resources from the Montana Career Lab and the Montana Career Information System

Montana Career Lab has career education resources you can use with your K-12 students. Some of these are online and others are PDFs that can be printed out. Visit <http://lmi.mt.gov/career> to access resources and be sure to view the video tour of our site.

On the Montana Career Lab site, scroll down to the MCIS TOOL KIT and DAILY ACTIVITIES section. Once here

- Click on the [Welcome to Montana Career Lab](#) video to learn about the site.
- Click on the Learning Games image to see video games on careers.
- Click the "MCIS Tool Kit" heading for instructional videos and other resources to help you use MCIS.
- Click the "Daily Activities" button for daily activities on our Facebook page.
- To Order materials go to <https://lmi.mt.gov/Publications/PublicationOrders>.

MCIS has curriculum plans for nine different areas of study, including career and technical education. This curriculum includes grade-appropriate activities for 8-12 grades and step-by-step instructions on how to implement them in the classroom.

Links to the curriculum plans are included below.

- [Career and Technical Curriculum](#)
- [Health & P.E. Curriculum](#)
- [Science Curriculum](#)
- [English/Language Curriculum](#)
- [Studies/Social Science](#)
- [Financial Literacy Curriculum](#)
- [MCIS Advisory Curriculum](#)
- [Visual & Performing Arts](#)
- [Math Curriculum](#)

You can also access these curriculums in MCIS by logging in to your admin or staff account. If you do not have an account, or cannot remember your login credentials, please contact Donetta McDowell (406.444.709 or mcdowell@mt.gov) or Mary Ellen Earnhardt (406.444.1770 or marvellen.earnhardt@mt.gov).

At-Home Learning Support Program from PFL in Livingston

Schools across the country are making the difficult decision to close schools for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Technological advancements in learning management systems and video conferencing are allowing teachers to continue reaching their students through e-learning. Students will now learn from home. However, as some students thrive in their new experience others are left behind.

At-Home Learning shouldn't mean that some students must suffer while others thrive. PFL (printingforless.com) provides a way for *all* students to continue their education during this uncertain time.

PFL has piloted a new At-Home Learning program with Indianapolis Public Schools to help them address the challenging situation before us. Now, this program is being made available to **all US public schools** as a supplement to existing e-curriculum. PFL invites public school administrators seeking to extend opportunity and support to their students to explore this new opportunity we're calling: Scholar Box. Scholar Boxes deliver everything your students need to be successful in a personalized creative experience. Support your students with a special delivery.

US Public Schools receive:

- PFL portal access for School administrators and teachers to upload materials and a personal message for students matched to their student ID.
- PFL will print, package, and ship school materials to each student's home.

--Students will receive a "Scholar Box" each week with (1) Personalized note from each teacher; (2) Curriculum for the week or two weeks; (3) Include additional items, School supplies (pencils, crayons, paper, etc.) Non-perishable food/snacks; (4) Delivery Options: School bus system, USPS, FedEx; (5) Return label for grading.

Students will tap into their creativity by decorating the blank canvas of their boxes before returning it to their teachers. Students will color, decorate and customize boxes creating a unique opportunity for Art teachers to create installations using the student's box art. Imagine students returning to campus in the fall to find a wall made of decorated Scholar Box bricks, a collage of box tops, or other creative projects.

Leveraging Technology to Deliver Excellence

PFL provides the software and manufacturing capabilities for School Administrators to continue serving the entire student body. The Scholar Box program is scalable, efficient and cost effective, allowing your school to focus on what matters most.

- PFL has granted \$175,000 of technology and professional services fees for public schools.
- This program is designed for K-8 students but can be modified for additional grade levels.
- We're working to secure additional sponsors to help offset costs for schools across the nation.
- We guarantee student's personal information will be protected.

Student Benefits

--Educational momentum: Students will be able to continue their education – uninterrupted – while schools are closed.

--Emotional and physical well-being: Keep students connected to their teachers to provide a sense of normalcy during these uncertain times. Teachers can provide encouragement and an education, even from a distance.

--Students keep pace: Tech-deficient students don't have to fall behind. Continue to support all students, regardless of circumstance.

School Benefits

--Lead your community well: Provide a constructive solution to all children and help everyone feel better about the uncommon situation in which we find ourselves.

--Supplement e-Learning: Help students supplement their online courses with hands-on lessons that provide a more engaging way to learn and increase material retention.

--Maintain student accountability: Teachers and administrators can see when a package was delivered and can follow up on students if necessary.

To Learn More and Get Started, Contact PFL at 406-206-5970 or ngrabiner@pfl.com.

Early-Bird Registration Now Open for ACTE's CareerTech VISION 2020 Conference in Nashville, December 2-5

The Association for Career & Technical Education's (acteonline.org) [CareerTech VISION 2020](http://acteonline.org) conference will be held December 2-5, 2020, in Nashville, Tennessee, at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center.

Early-Bird registration is current open and will end July 10, 2020. The ACTE-member Early-Bird registration is \$395. After July 10, the rate increases to \$445.

Room rates at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center are \$198 plus taxes and fees. A link to book rooms will be provided within your VISION registration confirmation.

For complete CareerTech VISION 2020 details, visit www.careertechvision.com.

Montana ACTE Launches Montana CTE Learn

The [Montana Association for Career & Technical Education](#) (Montana ACTE) is pleased to announce the official launching of [Montana CTE Learn](#) (mt.ctelearn.org). This new online learning portal is dedicated to the professional development and skill advancement of career and technical education professionals throughout Montana.

[Montana CTE Learn](#) provides a large catalog of online courses, free learning tutorials, a professional learning community (CareerED) and an interactive Individual Development Planner (IDP) that is easy to use and a valuable tool towards expanding high-quality CTE.

Montana CTE Learn features:

- 150+ high quality online courses that cover a wide range of instructional, leadership and career guidance topics.
- Each course is affordably priced, requires approximately four (4) hours to complete and comes with nationally recognized CEU credit.
- Eight free learning tutorials produced by the national association (ACTE) addressing specific CTE topics such as Global Competencies in CTE; STEM & CTE: Career Readiness; Core Academic Integration in CTE, Understanding Postsecondary Education in the U.S. and The Facts About Military Recruiting on Campus.
- Free learning modules for CTE professionals to enhance their workplace skills.

Montana ACTE invites you and your staff to visit the new [Montana CTE Learn](#) site and see firsthand the latest effort to ensure every CTE practitioner in Montana has the access to the resources to achieve their professional goals.

If you have questions about our new offering, or would like more information, please don't hesitate to contact Mark Branger, Montana ACTE, Executive Director, at mbranger@huntley.k12.mt.us.

New Perkins V Information Section Added to OPI CTE Website

The Office of Public Instruction has a NEW Perkins V section on the [CTE webpage](#) to help you develop your Perkins V Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment for the upcoming 2020-2021 Perkins fiscal year.

This [link](#) will take you to the resources listed below.

There are several new posts:

- Are You Perkins V Ready? (A timeline to keep your district on track)
- A fillable-file Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA) Manual. Please save your work as this will be uploaded to E-grants as the main section of your E-grant for coming year.
- Labor Market Dashboard designed by the Montana Department of Labor using Montana Career Pathways
- Montana's 16 Statewide Career Pathways website
- Templates for each pathway with possible course combinations
- New Work-based Learning Manual
- Course Codes to use when reporting Work-based Learning
- Dual credit courses for specific pathways and college campus contacts

Questions regarding Perkins V may be sent to Renee Erlandsen, rerlandsen@mt.gov, or call her at 406-994-6986.

Looking Ahead to June . . . Computer Science Professional Development Events in Great Falls, Billings, & Missoula

Four computer science professional development courses for Montana's high school teachers have been announced for Summer 2020.

Generous stipends and travel support is available. To register, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/y5446nl6>.

If your registration is accepted, there is no additional fee for you to attend. A limited number of participants will receive travel support and stipends, so you may be responsible for covering the cost of travel if you do not receive funding. Outreach activities are required in order for you to receive the full stipend (details follow upon registration acceptance). Registrations completed by March 1, 2020 will receive priority consideration for funding.

[Mobile CSP](#) will be offered June 15-19, in Great Falls. Based on the College Board's emerging Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science Principles curriculum framework for introductory computer science. Students learn programming and computer science principles by building socially useful mobile apps using MIT's App Inventor. Learn more about the Mobile CSP curriculum at mobilecsp.org. For questions, contact Stacy Dolder at stacy_dolderer@gfps.k12.mt.us.

Joy and Beauty of Computing (JBC) will be available June 15-19, in Billings. The course provides an overview of the world of computing, as well as a gentle introduction to computational thinking using the Python programming language. It examines the computing field and how it impacts the human condition, and introduces exciting ideas and influential people. This course can be taught for dual enrollment. Contact Jeff Braun, jbraun@mtech.edu, with any questions.

Python Modules for Math and Science will be June 22-26, in Missoula. Learn how to integrate modules that emphasize Python programming and computational thinking into high school science and math classes. Modules are fully developed and ready to go. They vary in length and difficulty. Opportunities to develop custom modules for your own classes will be provided and supported. For questions or more information, contact Yolanda Reimer at yolanda.reimer@mso.umt.edu.

Game Programming will take place June 22-26, in Missoula. The training will focus on 2D and 3D game development using [Unity](#). Learn more about Unity at unity.com. Please contact Hunter Lloyd, hunter.lloyd@montana.edu, with questions or for more information.

Fun Facts and Trivia

Zucchini is the only fruit that starts with Z.

Zucchini is a member of the gourd family, meaning just like cucumbers and pumpkins, they're considered a type of berry.

Botanically, zucchinis are fruits, a type of botanical berry called a "pepo", being the swollen ovary of the zucchini flower.

In a culinary context, the zucchini is treated as a vegetable; it is usually cooked and presented as a savory dish or accompaniment.

One zucchini is a "zucchina."

Zucchini like all squash has its ancestry in Central and South America.

Zucchini were brought to the Mediterranean by Christopher Columbus around 500 years ago.

Zucchini were brought to the United States in the 1920s by the Italians.

The word zucchini comes from 'zucca' the Italian word for squash.

April 25 is National Zucchini Bread Day.

Nutrients and vitamins found in zucchini can help prevent cancer and heart disease.

A zucchini has more potassium than a banana.

The flower of the zucchini plant is edible; fried squash blossoms are considered a delicacy.

Some popular zucchini varieties include golden zucchini, tatume, costata romanesco, and yellow crooknecks.

In Italy, zucchini is served in a variety of ways: fried, baked, boiled, or deep fried, alone or in combination with other ingredients.

In France, zucchini is a key ingredient in ratatouille, a stew of summer fruits and vegetables prepared in olive oil and cooked for an extended time over low heat.

In Russia, Ukraine and Serbia zucchini usually is coated in flour or semolina and then fried or baked in vegetable oil, served with a sour cream.

In Bulgaria, zucchini may be fried and then served with a dip, made from yogurt, garlic, and dill.

In Greece, zucchini is usually fried or stewed with other fruits.

In Egypt, zucchini may be cooked with tomato sauce, garlic, and onions.

Spain is the largest producer of zucchini in the world.

Issues of the Wednesday Reader are archived on the Montana Business Education Association (MBEA) website at www.mbea.info. The Wednesday Readers are under the Newsletter section and listed most-recent first.

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"You don't make decisions because they are easy; you don't make them because they are cheap; you don't make them because they're popular; you make them because they're right." ~Rev. Theodore Hesburgh