

TEAMS Opens for CTE Data Updates—Spring Enrollment Numbers

The Office of Public Instruction has opened the [Terms of Employment, Accreditation, and Master Schedule](#) (TEAMS) system to verify and update Career & Technical Education (CTE) enrollment for spring semester/trimester courses. TEAMS is open for enrollment updates thru March 15.

During the spring enrollment update, only the enrollment numbers for spring courses can be updated; additional courses cannot be added, and currently listed courses cannot be changed.

Please use this window to verify and updated spring enrollments, if necessary. The CTE enrolment data in TEAMS will be used to generate the CTE Participation Reports for the 2021-2022 school year as well as State CTE/VoEd funding allocations for the 2022-2023 school year.

If you are unable to get access to view the enrollment numbers for your courses, please send me an email and I can send you a screenshot or Excel file of your data.

If you have questions or need assistance with TEAMS, please contact opiteams@mt.gov.

Montana State CTE (VoEd) Funding & Perkins Intent to Apply for FY2023 Due March 15

The 2022-2023 Montana State CTE (VoEd) Funding is an allocation based on the 2021-2022 school year data entered in the Terms of Employment Accreditation and Master Schedules (TEAMS) and with Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO's) State Directors' membership rosters.

The factors of allocation are approvable CTE Program(s), correct course codes for CTE courses, properly endorsed teacher, student enrollment numbers and minutes for each course, affiliated CTSSO chapters and membership numbers, as well as any extended contract days for the CTE teacher.

All public high schools and K-12 districts with qualifying CTE Programs are eligible to [apply](#). Elementary districts are not eligible.

Carl D. Perkins provides funding to strengthen the Career and Technical Education programs offered to students; helping them to explore careers in high wage, high skill, and in demand fields. There are 16 Montana Career Pathways that allow students to explore the areas of Agricultural Education, Business and Marketing Education, Family and Consumer Sciences, Health Science, and Industrial Technology Education. Courses and programs must be taught by instructors endorsed in the respective curricular area.

All public high schools and K-12 districts with qualifying CTE Programs are eligible to [apply](#). Elementary districts are not eligible.

For assistance, please contact the Career and Technical Education division at 406.444.9019.

Please complete the [Intent to Apply](#) by Tuesday, March 15.

All schools planning on applying for Carl D. Perkins Grant for FY2023 will be required to complete an updated Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA). The CTE team at OPI will be sharing out and updating CLNA resources.

Please visit the [OPI Perkins site](#) for videos, planning guides and templates as they are updated at <https://opi.mt.gov/Perkins-V>.

Upcoming Fiscal Year 2022 Perkins Deadlines for Amendments & Cash Requests

Districts are encouraged to complete monthly cash requests to spend down their allocations. Some districts may need to submit an amendment for additional funds allocated in the fall after initial grants were approved before cash requests can be completed.

If there are questions on your cash request, please contact [Becky Belling](#). If there are questions on your Perkins grant application or amendments, please contact [Shannon Boswell](#).

Please note upcoming tasks and deadlines as outlined in the [Montana State and Federal Grant Handbook](#).

- June 1: Final Grant Amendments for E-Grants
- June 30: Last day to obligate funds for projects ending June 30
- July 31: Last day to liquidate obligations for projects that ended June 30
- August 10: Final Expenditure Reports due for projects that ended June 30

NGPF New Certification Course—Behavioral Economics—Begins March 14

[Next Gen Personal Finance](#) (NGPF) is introducing another brand new Certification Course: Behavioral Economics.

[Register now](#) to complete a five-week, nine-hour NGPF Certification Course during Cohort #21 to become certified in specific personal finance topics. Sessions are just two hours a week and start the week of March 14.

- Increase your confidence with current personal finance content knowledge
- Gather ready-to-implement resources to bring to your students
- Earn a Certification Badge to share on your email signature, resume, and LinkedIn

Continue earning your credits for [NGPF Academy](#) this school year.

Four Courses are Available during this Cohort:

- Behavioral Economics (new)
- Credit
- Cryptocurrency Basics
- Investing

[Register today](#) for Cohort #21. The course runs March 14-April 14. If you participate, be sure to work with your district/school to receive OPI Renewal Units.

Montana Financial Education Coalition Mini-Grants Now Available

The Montana Financial Education Coalition (MFEC) is pleased to announce the opening of their 2022 [mini-grant applications](#).

The MFEC is proud to promote local efforts to expand financial education across Montana. The [mini-grants](#) are intended to help support activities in local communities that are rooted in Financial Literacy Awareness. The MFEC places an emphasis on applications which target high-needs populations and that create a best-practice or tool that is replicable.

The deadline for the submission of the MFEC mini-grant applications is April 15, 2022.

Early-Bird Rate for NBEA Convention Extend to March 12—Virtual Option Available

The [National Business Education Association](#) (NBEA) has extended early-bird registration the [NBEA 2022 Annual Convention](#) to March 12, 2022.

The [NBEA 2022 Annual Convention](#) will be held April 12-15, 2022, in Chicago, Illinois, at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile. If you are not able to attend in person, NBEA is also offering a virtual option again this year.

The early-bird rate for NBEA members is \$399 for both the in-person and virtual options. Please visit the [NBEA 2022 Annual Convention](#) site for complete event details and to register.

Great Opportunity for Students to Win Cash While Testing Personal Finance & Econ Skills

The Montana Council on Economic Education (MCEE) is pleased to announce they will host the [Montana Economics Challenge 2022](#) and the [Personal Finance Challenge 2022](#).

To inspire more participation and remove any financial or travel barriers, both programs will be made available at no charge to schools and available completely online.

With the help of sponsors, the software fees are covered and MCEE will award \$500 to all the first place teams, \$250 to second place, and \$100 to first place. There will be two divisions for the Economics Challenge.

In economics we love incentives. The top performers in Montana have opportunities to compete at regional and national levels, including possible all expenses paid travel to New York City of the national Economics Challenge.

Registration is open now and all testing will need to be completed by April 8, 2022, to determine the Montana winners. Once teachers are registered, they will have access to practice exams and additional preparation resources.

Visit the [Montana Economics Challenge 2022](#) and the [Personal Finance Challenge 2022](#) pages for other details.

Thank you for the competition sponsors First Interstate Bank, BNSF, and the Montana Financial Education Coalition.

For questions, please contact Dax Schieffer at mcee@montana.edu.

Save the Date for the 2022 NICE K12 Cybersecurity Education Conference

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the [NICE K12 Cybersecurity Education Conference](#) in St. Louis, Missouri, December 5-6, 2022.

The [NICE K12 Cybersecurity Education Conference](#) is the national conference for K12 cybersecurity education. Gain tools to accelerate learning, identify methods to nurture a diverse learning community, and guide career development for the cybersecurity workforce of the future.

Join hundreds of K-12 educators and supporters as everyone comes together to learn, network, create community, promote, and increase K12 cybersecurity education programs throughout the country.

Cyber Education Discovery Forum—June 20-22, 2022—in Alexandria, Virginia

The [Cyber Education Discovery Forum](#), hosted by [CYBER.ORG](#), is a professional development event designed to prepare and empower K12 educators to teach cybersecurity topics. Early-Bird Registration is \$50, ending March 31, and increases to \$100 after March 31.

- Learn and practice ready-to-implement lessons in daily workshops
- Explore relevant cybersecurity education topics through breakout sessions
- Network with K-12 educators as well as cybersecurity industry and organizations

The [Cyber Education Discovery Forum](#) will be held June 20-22, 2022, in Alexandria, Virginia, at The Westin Alexandria Old Town. Room rates are \$195 with reservations due by May 18, 2022. The Westin Alexandria Old Town is 4.5 miles from Reagan National Airport (DCA).

The [Cyber Education Discovery Forum](#) will have four tracks: 1) Cybersecurity Awareness for Elementary; 2) Cybersecurity Awareness for Middle School; 3) Technical Cybersecurity for High School; and 4) Cyber Society.

Apply Now for the Montana Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program

Through House Bill 211, the 2019 Montana legislature renewed the quality educator [student loan assistance](#) program as a recruitment and retention aid for rural schools. The Office of Public Instruction is responsible for administering the program. Applications for the [Montana Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program](#) will be accepted from February 1-March 31, 2022.

Newly hired quality educators who teach or work in a subject that has been identified as a “critical quality educator shortage area” at an “impacted school” are eligible to receive state paid loan assistance for up to four years, so long as they remain a full-time employee at an impacted school.

The [program](#) provides for up to \$3,000 of state-funded loan repayment at the end of the first year of teaching, up to \$4,000 at the end of the second year, and up to \$5,000 at the end of the third year. In addition, the school district has the option to offer up to \$5,000 at the end of the fourth year, but this is entirely a local decision.

Adobe Design Circle Scholarships for Students—Applications Due March 14

The [Adobe Design Circle Scholarships](#) application is now open. Applications are due on Monday, March 14 at 11:59 pm Pacific Time.

Adobe believes that young people should have the opportunity to learn and express themselves through creativity and technology, regardless of their economic or cultural backgrounds. A diverse design community that reflects the world around us is essential to our industry’s future innovation and economic success.

To help reach untapped youth communities and foster more diversity in the design industry, the [Design Circle scholarship](#) will do just that: Adobe is awarding 10 annual college scholarships—up to \$25,000 per year, for each year of the recipient’s undergraduate education (up to four years or \$100,000).

The scholarship is ideal for students who want to enter product design or experience design-related careers (e.g. digital, web, UX/UI, interaction design, or similar).

For more information and to access the application, click [here](#).

The Junior Prospects Competition & The Prospects Entries Due Soon—March 18

The Montana Chamber Foundation is excited to announce that this year's competition will also include a prize purse for entrepreneurial minded junior high schoolers.

These prizes include cash awards, sponsored by Jobs for Montana's Graduates (JMG) and Two Bear Capital, to encourage entrepreneurial thinking that improves local communities; and we are accepting submissions for existing or new business ideas for generating money.

This competition is open to all Montana middle school-aged entrepreneurs. To learn more, contact Tiana Yates, Youth Entrepreneurs Coordinator at tiana@montanachamber.com.

Current Prize Purse: \$2,000 cash—Enter as individuals, teams or as a class to compete for cash prizes of \$100-\$250 for entrepreneurial thinking that improves your community; and for existing or new business ideas that generate money.

Submission Requirements: Pitch Video (two minutes or less), Business Summary (1,000 words max.), Participation Agreement/Waiver Form signed by an Educator and/or Parent or Guardian.

Dates: The Spring Round will take place January 17-March 18 with the Awards Show (Virtual) on Friday, April 22 at 12 pm.

Submission Link: More information can be found on the [Montana Chamber's Prospects](#) website. To learn more, please contact Tiana Yates, Youth Entrepreneurs Coordinator, at tiana@montanachamber.com.

Categories & Structure: The Junior Prospects competition is designed to develop entrepreneurial thinking through the Youth Entrepreneurs project-based learning activities. To provide structure, the Montana Chamber Foundation recommends formatting your submissions in one or more of the following categories.

- [The Vacant Lot](#): Team or Class Competition
- Free Category: Follow your passion
- Industry Specific Ideas: Health, Tech, Construction, Manufacturing
- Mobile Applications to improve life
- Sports-related goods or services
- Non-Profit/Community Development New product or invention
- Improve existing services

The Prospects Update (High School): The Spring Round for The Prospects (high school division) has officially opened and will go through March 18. Great submissions have been received in the first round and are looking forward to seeing even more come in. The prize purse is up to \$63,500 and continues to grow.

To easily access the eligibility waiver, competition guide, and a full list of prizes please click [here](#). This Google Drive is being updated weekly with prizes and information so please make sure to keep checking back. The drive is a helpful place to help narrow down student ideas if they are struggling as there are some specific prizes and categories. You can also visit The Chamber website: [The Prospects - Montana Chamber of Commerce](#).

The Prospects 2022 High School Business Competition—Spring Round Ends March 18

[The Prospects](#) is a virtual statewide entrepreneurship competition for high school students with new ideas and existing small businesses. This collaborative initiative invests in our students while developing a mentorship platform to connect with business and community leaders.

[The Prospects](#) is Montana's premier opportunity for high school students to demonstrate and be handsomely rewarded for their entrepreneurial spirit...that spirit you are unleashing in your classes.

Any of Montana's 40,000+ high school-aged students are encouraged to submit their innovative ideas and solutions or enter their existing businesses. Matt and Tiana Zoomed with over 100 students in more than 10 classrooms around Montana in December. During these meetings they are encouraging students to think about their passions and what motivates them. They then offer suggestions on how to turn these passions and motivators into a business. They also discuss students' current business ideas and brainstorming on how to cultivate their ideas into a winning submission. If this is something you would like to bring into your classroom, please email Tiana Yates at tiana@montanachamber.com to schedule a time for Tiana and Matt to Zoom with your class.

The current prize purse includes \$51,000 in cash and scholarships. Stay tuned for regular updates as the prize purse grows. Prizes will include cash prizes, scholarships & financial aid, technology prizes, and opportunities for mentoring, internships, apprenticeships, and work-based learning.

Participants will need to submit a (1) a pitch Video (two minutes or less), (2) a business summary (1,000 words max.), (3) a waiver form signed by an educator and/or parent or guardian, and (4) a completed W-9 Form.

The Spring 2022 round runs January 17-March 18, 2022.

The awards show will be held Friday, April 22 at 12 pm (MDT).

Judging for both the Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 rounds will taken place following the closing of the spring round.

Complete details about The Prospects and submission information can be found at MontanaChamber.com/Prospects.

To learn more or to get questions answered, please contact Tiana Yates, Youth Entrepreneurs Coordinator, at tiana@montanachamber.com.

Fun Facts & Trivia

Union Pacific is a train-themed stock market game.

On each turn, players must choose between expanding a company to increase its value and adding a share of stock to their hand or playing stock onto the table from their hand to increase their ownership of one or two companies.

There are four semi-random scoring events, in which the first and second place shareholder in each company are paid dividends.

Only stock that has been previously played onto the table is considered during the scoring rounds.

Union Pacific is a special company whose shares are claimed according to special rules.

Union Pacific is not represented on the board but instead pays dividends to all shareholders according to a fixed progression chart.

Money is only used to track victory conditions and cannot be spent during the game; the winner is the player with the most money at the end of the game.

The Union Pacific is one of the largest railroad companies in America.

Its rails connect many of the largest cities in America.

To further enhance its range, it has arrangements with smaller companies to use their rails; thus, allowing the Union Pacific to serve even more cities.

The ten smaller companies are shown on the map with their starting cities and possible track sections they may build.

Each track section connects two cities and has spaces for one or more trains.

The number of spaces indicates how many companies may build track along the section.

The players are shareholders of the railway companies and fight for the stock majorities in the companies.

They also develop the railway systems by building track for the companies.

By building track for the companies, they have large holdings in, the players attempt to earn large dividends and end the game as the richest player.

The Union Pacific is a freight-hauling railroad that operates 8,300 locomotives over 32,200 miles routes in 23 U.S. states west of Chicago and New Orleans.

Union Pacific is the second largest railroad in the United States after BNSF.

Union Pacific and BNSF have a duopoly on transcontinental freight rail lines in the Western, Midwestern and Southern United States.

Founded in 1862, the original Union Pacific Rail Road was part of the First Transcontinental Railroad project, later known as the Overland Route.

The original company, the "Union Pacific Rail Road" was incorporated on July 1, 1862, under an act of Congress entitled Pacific Railroad Act of 1862.

The act was approved by President Abraham Lincoln, and it provided for the construction of railroads from the Missouri River to the Pacific as a war measure for the preservation of the Union.

It was constructed westward from Council Bluffs, Iowa, to meet the Central Pacific Railroad line, which was constructed eastward from Sacramento, California.

Over the next century, UP absorbed the Missouri Pacific Railroad, the Chicago and North Western Transportation Company, the Western Pacific Railroad, the Missouri–Kansas–Texas Railroad and the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad.

In 1996, the Union Pacific merged with Southern Pacific Transportation Company, itself a giant system that was absorbed by the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad.

The Union Pacific Railroad is headquartered in Omaha, Nebraska.

The Union Pacific Railroad Museum is a former Carnegie library in Council Bluffs, Iowa, that houses artifacts, photographs, and documents that trace the development of the railroad and the American West.

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