

### **TEAMS Open March 1-15 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.

Also during this time, please double check extended contract days, if applicable, and make any updates if needed.

Please use this window to verify and update spring enrollments, if necessary. The CTE enrolment data in TEAMS will be used to generate the CTE Participation Reports for the 2022-2023 school year as well as State CTE/VoEd funding allocations for the 2023-2024 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](mailto:opiteams@mt.gov).

### **Montana State CTE (Vo-Ed) Funding and Perkins Intent to Apply Due March 17**

**Montana State CTE (Vo-Ed) Funding:** The 2023-2024 Montana State CTE (VoEd) Funding is an allocation based on the 2022-2023 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 high schools and K-12 districts with qualifying CTE Programs are eligible to [apply](#).

**Carl D. Perkins funding:** 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 high schools and K-12 districts with qualifying CTE Programs are eligible to [apply](#).

The Intent to Apply [Google Form](#) must be completed by March 17, 2023.

Elementary districts are not eligible. For assistance, please contact the Career and Technical Education division at (406) 444-9019.

### **Applications Now Being Accepted for Montana Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program**

Through HB 211, the 2019 Montana legislature renewed the [quality educator loan assistance program](#) as a recruitment and retention aid for rural schools. The OPI is responsible for administering the program.

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 Office of Public Instruction has updated the process for [Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program applications](#). The application process opened February 13, 2023, and runs through April 14, 2023.

Use the [application link](#) to complete an application and upload required documents. Please note that approvals and payments will not be processed until the review process is complete for all applications. Expect payment to be sent out after June 1, 2023. Letters to applicants will be sent at the same time.

For information about Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program, email [OPILoanAssistance@mt.gov](mailto:OPILoanAssistance@mt.gov).

### **"W2 – Do Your Taxes" Night with Students**

The Montana Society of CPA's announces the opportunity to host a "W2- Do Your Taxes" night to help high school students learn about tax filing.

This is a great opportunity to get involved with promoting the accounting industry to high school students and for local professionals to give back to the community. During the event, possibly two-three local tax professionals would be present to answer student questions.

If interested in hosting a "W2- Do Your Taxes" night with students, or to learn more, please contact Erinn Donnell, the Montana Society of CPAs' Communications Manager at [erinn@montana.cpa](mailto:erinn@montana.cpa) or by phone at 406.442.7301.

### **YE/Empowered + MT Chamber Foundation PD Collaboration Summer 2023 = \$500 Scholarship\$**

Are you interested in attending the Empowered [RiseUp Conference](#) in Salt Lake City, Utah July 18-21? The Empowered RiseUp event is free once you arrive, and The Montana Chamber Foundation will be reimbursing your travel up to \$500.

*"The FREE activities, curriculum, and resources available through Empowered and the Montana Chamber Foundation are changing the lives of both students and teachers. Through the partnership between Empowered and the Montana Chamber Foundations, Montana CTE teachers have opportunities not available anywhere else in the country." ~Eric Swenson, Montana Business Education Specialist.*

The Montana Chamber Foundation loves how the Empowered curriculum can be layered into your classroom and want to support you in going and learning more about it. Educators are Montana's rock stars, and the Montana Chamber Foundation wants to ensure this is an awesome and completely paid for learning event.

How??

1. [Register](#) on the Empowered Hub for the Salt Lake City, Utah, RiseUp, July 18-20
2. Empowered will pay for the hotel rooms; when registering, please select "yes" to all of the hotel "scholarship" questions.
3. Please register for the RiseUp event before March 31
4. Reimbursement will be refunded upon attendance to the conference. Please keep all of your travel receipts, reimbursement will be up to \$500 of travel.

5. Montana Chamber Foundation and Empowered will be sending you information to make hotel reservations on your own. Upon check in to the hotel, the reservation will be moved from your card to Empowered.
6. Make sure to wait to make your hotel reservation until you hear from the Chamber Foundation, hotel reservations will look different than anyone else coming from around the country.

Who: Any Montana Educator currently using Empowered or wanting to learn about Empowered and how they can apply it to their classroom. If you have already registered for SLC, you are good to go.

What: Montana Educators attend this Empowered professional development training absolutely FREE. After registering for the RiseUp event, Empowered pays for all of the programming and hotels once you arrive. The Montana Chamber Foundation will pay for your travel up to \$500. The Chamber is adding one additional paid night for Montana educators and the Chamber Foundation requests you stay for in order to claim the \$500 travel. During this time, the Chamber Foundation will build mentorships and relationships within the Montana network of teachers.

Why: If you are new to Empowered, there will be sessions for you to learn how to utilize the curriculum. If you are a veteran, there will be sessions for you to learn how to expand Empowered in your classroom. During the additional Montana time, time will be spent to network and share how the Chamber can support you and take time to celebrate and appreciate Montana Educators.

When: July 18-21`, Empowered RiseUp ends at 1pm, July 20, and the Chamber will pay for the additional night with the Montana educators and you can fly/drive home July 21.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to Montana Chamber Foundation Workforce Strategists Tiana Yates, [tiana@montanachamber.com](mailto:tiana@montanachamber.com), or James Easton, [james@montanachamber.com](mailto:james@montanachamber.com), with any questions. See you in Salt Lake.

### **Registration is Now Open for Empowered's FREE RiseUp Professional Development**

[RiseUp](#) events are the flagship of [Empowered's](#) in-person training and professional development program. These three-day, regional programs are designed to assemble 300+ educators (each) to share a truly unique professional development experience. Speakers, panels, sessions, and leave-to-learns are specifically designed to be hands-on and foster participation and exploration.

The western region [RiseUp](#) will be July 18-20, 2023, in Salt Lake City, Utah. Tracks will be available for current teachers and teachers new to Empowered's curriculum, as well as joint sessions.

Thanks to the generous support of Empowered's donors and financial partners, registration for RiseUp events is free. Meals and snacks are included as part of the program and hotel scholarships are available for those traveling to participate. Professional Development Certificates will be issued to all participants. Teachers attending RiseUp are responsible for their transportation costs and incidentals.

Need more information? Try the [FAQ](#) page or [contact Empowered](#). If attending, be sure to work with your district/school to receive OPI Renewal Units for Professional Development (RUPDs) events.

[Empowered](#), a non-profit organization, partners with and supports K-12 educators. The Empowered Community—with thousands of teachers nationwide—believes that every student deserves an education that helps them discover and develop their own, unique skills and truly prepares them for life ahead.

[Empowered](#) offers 140+ engaging learning activities, training and professional development (including [RiseUp](#) events), support, from our staff and teacher community, and a collection of tools and resources to help bring learning to life.

### **March 10 is Deadline for Spring 2023 Edition of the Prospects & Junior Prospects**

Hello and Happy 2023 from all at the Montana Chamber and Chamber Foundation.

The Prospects and Junior Prospects are in full swing. Th Chamber Foundation has been engaging with classes to help promote the competition as well as to hear student pitches. The submissions are rolling in and they cannot wait to see what ideas there are this year.

What is The Prospects/The Junior Prospects? If you are unfamiliar with the competition, it is a virtual pitch competition for grades 6-8 (The Junior Prospects) and 9-12 (The Prospects). The requirements are for a student to submit a written pitch and two-minute video, that is it. Business leaders from across the state judge the competition virtually and are able to give their feedback to these budding entrepreneurs.

The students can submit existing businesses that they have already started from a small scale to a full-fledged business. The other category is a new business where students have the opportunity to be creative and think of the next big thing. The new business category is not expected to actually start the business, just share the idea.

The Prize Purse is \$75,000 of unrestricted cash, scholarships, airline tickets, and workforce learning opportunities. New this year for the high school Prospects competition is an in-person pitch competition in Bozeman for the top 10 submissions to compete for an additional \$5,000.

To learn more, please take a look at this [flyer](#).

#### Important Dates

##### Junior Prospects

--February 20: Submissions due by midnight

--April 20: Virtual Awards Show

##### The Prospects

--March 10: Final Submission Date; Submissions due by midnight

--March 24: Final Advancements Announced

--April 20: Virtual Awards Show

--May 21-23: GRAND CHAMPION PITCH COMPETITION, BOZEMAN hosted by the Jake Jobs College of Business and Entrepreneurship at Montana State University and EdChoice.

View this [presentation](#) for complete competition details.

For additional questions or to set up a Zoom meeting with our Workforce Strategists, please contact Tiana Yates, [tiana@montanachamber.com](mailto:tiana@montanachamber.com), or James Easton, [james@montanachamber.com](mailto:james@montanachamber.com).

### **ISTELive 23 in Philadelphia—Over 900 Sessions Planned; Check Out the Program**

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is the site for [ISTELive 23](#), June 25-28, with pre-conference events on June 24. If you are not able to make it to Philly, ISTELive 23 will also have a virtual option.

The [Super-Early-Bird registration](#) for both the in-person and virtual options ends today, March 1, with Early-Bird registration available from March 2-May 1.

Visit the [ISTELive 23 website](#) for the conference schedule, registration, and lodging details.

### **NBEA 2023 Convention Early-Bird Registration Ends March 6**

The [National Business Education Association](#) (NBEA) [2023 Hybrid Convention](#) is April 3-6 in Kansas City, Missouri, with early-bird registration ending Monday, March 6. The early-bird NBEA member rate is \$399 for onsite attendance and \$249 for the virtual option.

A complete conference schedule is posted on the [2023 Hybrid Convention](#) page of the NBEA website along with details regarding lodging at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown and optional activities.

### **Registration Open for Personal Finance Challenge; April 5 is Deadline for Team Competition**

**What is the Personal Finance Challenge?** Every year, the [Montana Council for Economic Education](#) (MCEE), with support from the National Council for Economic Education hosts the [Montana Personal Finance Challenge](#). The challenge is an opportunity for students to demonstrate their knowledge of personal finance by connecting with other students from across the state in an online competition.

**How does the challenge work?** Teams of 3-4 students will have 35 minutes to complete a 30-question online exam covering the principles of personal finance including money management, credit, investing, and insurance. Testing must be completed by April 5, 2023. Sample tests are available in the program.

Students earn 10 points for every correct response and 0 points for each incorrect answer. Every question must be answered to move on, and students are not able to go back to previous questions.

There will be a cash prize for the top three teams in Montana:

- 1st Place: \$500 per team
- 2nd Place: \$250 per team
- 3rd Place: \$100 per team

**Next Steps:** 1) If you are new to the Montana Personal Finance Challenge, welcome. You will need to select "[Teacher Registration](#)" from the menu and create your teacher profile. Once your profile is created, you will be able to log in and begin creating your teams. 2) If you are a returning teacher, welcome back. Your profile information is saved from your previous participation, and you can log in to begin creating your teams for this year's challenge. 3) Teachers sign up their team(s). You may sign up multiple teams on your teacher admin page, after you log-in—no need to register more than once.

**Teacher Drawing:** For each registered team that completes the challenge, teachers will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 cash prize.

Teachers can create as many student teams as they would like, and the Montana Council for Economic Education has generously provided all registration and participation fees.

*\*In the event of a tie score, the team with the cumulative least amount of time testing will win.*

For questions or for more information, please contact MCEE Executive Director Dax Schieffer at <mailto:mcee@montana.edu>.

## **Registration is Now Open for the 2023 edition of the Montana Economics Challenge**

[Registration is now open](#) for the Montana Economics Challenge. Teams have until April 5, 2023, to compete.

**What is the Montana Economics Challenge?** Every year, the [Montana Council for Economic Education](#) (MCEE), with support from the National Council for Economic Education, hosts the [Economics Challenge Program](#). The Challenge is an opportunity for students to demonstrate their knowledge of Economic Literacy by competing with other students across the state in online examinations. Student participants receive cash prizes, awards, and accolades.

There are two divisions in the Economics Challenge:

- Adam Smith: For returning competitors, AP, IB, and honors students.
- David Ricardo: For first-time competitors with no more than one course in economics.

How does the challenge work? Teams of 3-4 students will have 35 minutes to complete a 30-question online exam covering a broad variety of economic principles. Students earn 10 points for every correct response and 0 points for each incorrect answer. Every question must be answered to move on, and students are not able to go back to previous questions.

There will be a cash prize for the top three teams in each division:

- 1st Place: \$500 per team
- 2nd Place: \$250 per team
- 3rd Place: \$100 per team

**State Finals Awards:** Winners from the state championships will represent Montana in the national competition.

**Next Steps:** If you are new to the Montana Economics Challenge, welcome. You will need to select "[Teacher Registration](#)" from the menu and create your teacher profile. Once your profile is created, you will be able to log in and begin creating your teams.

If you are a returning teacher, welcome back. Your profile information is saved from your previous participation, and you can log in to begin creating your teams for this year's challenge.

Teachers sign up their team(s). You may sign up multiple teams on your teacher admin page, after you log-in—no need to register more than once.

**Teacher Drawing:** For each registered team that completes the challenge, teachers will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 cash prize.

Teachers can create as many student teams as they would like and the Montana Council on Economic Education has generously provided all registration and participation fees.

For questions, please contact Dax Schieffer, Montana Council for Economic Education Executive Director, at [mcee@montana.edu](mailto:mcee@montana.edu).

## **CYBER.ORG Offering Travel Grants for EdCon 2023 in Arizona**

Do not let financial constraints keep you from [CYBER.ORG's EdCon 23](#) at the Mesa Convention Center in Mesa, Arizona, June 20-22, 2023.

CYBER.ORG has a limited number of \$500 travel grants available for eligible teachers. Recipients of travel grants will be able to use the funds to seek reimbursement for up to \$500 of registration, airfare, and/or hotel costs.

All applicants will receive a response to their application within 14 days with an award decision. Please note: (A) in order to *accept* the travel grant, you must (1) register for EdCon 23; (B) in order to *receive funds*, you must (1) attend EdCon 23 and (2) submit receipts for the total for which you are seeking reimbursement. Complete instructions will be given to awardees in the email notifying them of the award decision.

[Apply today.](#)

### **CYBER.ORG Hosting CYBER.ORG EdCon 23 in June in Mesa**

[CYBER.ORG](#) announces registration is now open for [CYBER.ORG EdCon 23](#). [CYBER.ORG EdCon 23](#) (formerly CEDF) is a national conference designed to inspire and empower novice and expert K-12 cybersecurity educators alike.

Attendees will have the opportunity to:

- Learn ready-to-implement lessons from CYBER.ORG curriculum developers.
- Explore at-no-cost resources from industry experts.
- Gain firsthand knowledge from K-12 educators teaching foundational and technical cybersecurity.

[CYBER.ORG EdCon 23](#) will be held June 20-23, 2023, at the Mesa Convention Center in Mesa, Arizona.

[Early bird registration](#) is \$50 for K-12 Educators & Government, \$100 for Higher Ed & Non-Profit, and \$150 for Industry member and ends April 30, 2023.

[Book Your Stay](#) at the Delta Hotels Phoenix Mesa for \$103 plus taxes per night. The rooming block ends May 19, 2023.

### **Scholarships Available for CTSA's 2023 Virtual Conference Registration**

The [Computer Science Teachers](#) Association (CTSA) 2023 Virtual Conference will be July 11-13, 2023. CSTA is offering [scholarships](#) that subsidize 100% of the program cost. These scholarships are intended to support teachers whose limited financial resources may prevent them from attending.

CSTA will award as many scholarships as possible to help deserving teachers join this excellent learning opportunity and will give priority consideration to:

- First-time conference attendees
- Teachers of color
- Teachers who teach underrepresented students in Computer Science
- Active CSTA members and volunteers
- Conference presenters (and those who submitted proposals)

Chapter leaders who attend the Chapter Leadership Summit already receive complimentary conference registration and need not apply. Contact [conference@csteachers.org](mailto:conference@csteachers.org) with any questions.



To be eligible for scholarships to the 2023 CSTA Conference, you must:

- be a CSTA Basic\* or CSTA+ member,
- directly teach computer science to K-12 students, and
- not have access to funding from your school or organization to cover conference registration fees.

If not a CSTA member, you can join as a member for free at [csteachers.org/join](https://csteachers.org/join). [Applications](#) close on April 28, 2023.

### **Montana Work-Based Learning Collaborative: 2023 Montana Teacher Externships**

Educator Externships are a unique professional development opportunity where teachers are immersed in a company to learn about the skills and competencies needed to succeed in that industry or career path. The Montana Work-Based Learning Collaborative is offering 40 teachers a three-day externship.

The experience strengthens an educator's teaching abilities and brings relevant, real-world context into the classroom. Externships are often transformative for educators, students, and industry partners. Impacting just one teacher allows a company to reach between 20-150 students each year.

You must complete [registration](#) to be considered for the externship. Upon completion of the externship, you will be eligible to receive a stipend paid by the Montana Work-Based Learning Collaborative and up to 20 renewal units. [Register here](#).

### **Applications Now Open in Montana for the Code.org Professional Learning Program**

Applications are now open for Code.org's [Professional Learning Program](#) for middle and high school educators. If you are interested in teaching computer science for the 2023-2024 academic year, this is your time to explore the computer science curriculum and collaborate with educators of all experience levels to develop lesson plans and teaching strategies.

What is the Professional Learning Program? Hosted by highly trained facilitators, our professional development workshops will prepare you to confidently bring CS to your students as well as connect with an online and in-person community of peers. Most workshops have scholarship funding available.

[Elementary teachers](#) can sign-up for a one-day workshop near you. Applications are not required for Computer Science Fundamentals workshops and take place throughout the country, year-round.

[Middle and High School teachers](#) will begin with a five-day workshop on Computer Science Discoveries (CSD), Computer Science Principles (CSP), and/or Computer Science A (CSA) in the summer, with academic year workshops thereafter.

--Option 1: Virtual, July 24-28, 2023

--Option 2: University of Idaho--Coeur d'Alene Harbor Center, July 31-August 4, 2023

--Option 3: Raisbeck Aviation High School, Tukwila, Washington, August 7-11, 2023

The cost of CSD, CSP, or CSA is \$1,500/person. This covers the tuition of both the summer and academic year workshops (nine total days of training). Any travel, lodging, or food costs for in-person trainings are separate. Scholarship opportunities are available to cover the costs of Code.org training tuition for qualified applicants.

If you have any questions, please contact [Code.org](#).



## **Fun Facts & Trivia**

In the Disney film, *The Rescuers*, The Rescue Aid Society, an international organization of mice with headquarters in the basement of the United Nations building, receives a plea for help from a little orphan girl named Penny.

Penny has been kidnapped by an evil woman, Madame Medusa, who intends to use her to retrieve a fabulous diamond, the Devil's Eye, from a pirate cave.

The case is taken by lovely Bianca and Rescue Aid Society custodian Bernard, who becomes her shy assistant.

Together, after avoiding two brutish alligators, enlisting the help of the local swamp folk, and turning Medusa and her henchman Snoops against themselves, they rescue Penny and the diamond.

*The Rescuers* was Released on June 22, 1977.

*The Rescuers* featured the voices of Eva Gabor (Bianca) and Bob Newhart (Bernard) along with Geraldine Page (Madame Medusa), Jim Jordan (Orville), John McIntire (Rufus), James Macdonald (Evinrude), Michelle Stacy (Penny), Bernard Fox (Chairmouse), Larry Clemmons (Gramps), George Lindsey (Deadeye), Dub Taylor (Digger), John Fiedler (Deacon), and Pat Buttram (Luke).

The animated film was based on two books by Margery Sharp: *The Rescuers* and *Miss Bianca*.

The film was nominated for an Academy Award for "Someone's Waiting For You," as Best Song, written by Sammy Fain, Carol Connors, and Ayn Robbins.

The film was four years in the making, with the combined talents of 250 people, including 40 animators who produced approximately 330,000 drawings; there were 14 sequences with 1,039 separate scenes and 750 backgrounds.

*The Rescuers Down Under* was the first Disney animated classic essentially to be a sequel, to the 1977 hit film, *The Rescuers*, when released on November 16, 1990.

In Australia, the young Cody discovers that evil Percival McLeach has captured the magnificent eagle, Marahute.

He manages to set her free only to be kidnapped himself, and later to see her recaptured.

A frantic call for help goes out to the Rescue Aid Society, which sends the intrepid Bernard and Miss Bianca to help.

They are aided by Wilbur from Albatross Air Lines, and in Australia are joined by Jake and frill-necked lizard Frank, in trying to outwit McLeach and save Marahute.

*The Rescuers Down Under* features the voice talents of Bob Newhart (Bernard), Eva Gabor (Bianca), John Candy (Wilbur), Tristan Rogers (Jake), Adam Ryen (Cody), and George C. Scott (Percival McLeach).

The production required a team of more than 415 artists and technicians.

Five key members of the creative team traveled to the Australian Outback to observe for themselves its unique beauty, which they wanted to capture on film.

They came home with hundreds of photographs of Ayers Rock, Katherine Gorge, and Kakadu National Park, and countless filled sketchbooks.

Since Jim Jordan, who had voiced the albatross Orville in the original *The Rescuers*, had passed away, it was Roy E. Disney who suggested the character of Wilbur, Orville's brother, as a replacement.

The names, of course, were a play on the Wright Brothers.

While the animation itself would be done by hand as it always has been, for the first time, computer technology took the place of the Xerox process and the hand painting of cels (and it also enabled the inclusion of several spectacular visuals).

The marketing effort for the film did not call attention to the fact that cels were not used, so that the film would be reviewed on its own merits and not in comparison to earlier Disney films.

Issues of the Wednesday Reader are archived on the Montana Business Education Association (MBEA) website at [www.mbea.info](http://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*