

THE WEDNESDAY READER
April 12, 2023

Please note, I will be out of the office beginning the afternoon of April 20 and returning May 2; therefore, there will not be a Wednesday Reader for April 26.

Friday, April 14, is Due Date for Montana Quality Educator Loan Assistance Applications

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.

Business & Marketing Montana Career Pathways Sent Out for Review and Approval

Following the review of the Business & Marketing Participation Reports from 2022-2023 school year, Pathway Approval Form(s) for Montana’s Business & Marketing Education programs’ Montana Career Pathways have started to be sent out via email this week. All Pathway Approval Forms should be sent out by the end of the week.

The courses within the Pathway Approval Form are those most closely related to those in the OPI’s Montana Career Pathways’ [Secondary Programs of Study](#). In reviewing the CTE Participation Reports and adding courses to/updating the Pathway Approval Forms, I have tried to ensure all courses taught are listed in at least one pathway.

If your program has more than one pathway, the Excel sent in the email will have a sheet for each pathway. All pathways require at least one (1) credit/two (2) semesters of foundational coursework and at least one (1) credit/two (2) semesters of elective, or advanced, coursework.

If you would like to view all the courses within your CTE Participation Report, please let me know. Keep in mind the data in this year’s CTE Participation Reports cannot be changed, but the data can be updated when information is entered into TEAMS for the 2023-2024 school year next fall.

To finalize the Pathway Approval Form(s), please complete the following steps.

1. Review the courses and related information listed in the form and note any necessary updates/corrections.
2. List any additional courses not offered this year, but may be offered on an alternating/rotating schedule basis.
3. Include any Work-Based Learning experiences provided by the program &/or the school (a [Work-Based Learning Manual](#) can be downloaded from the OPI website).

4. Identify any Dual Enrollment course offerings and/or Industry Recognized Credentials available within the program area.

When completed, please key your name, or the name of the individual who approved the data within the form, and the date.

Save a copy for your records and email the Excel file/form(s) back to me at eswenson@mt.gov by Saturday, May 30.

With Perkins V, CTE concentrators for Perkins reporting are identified by Montana Career Pathway instead of CTE program area. Therefore, please share your approved pathway(s) with those who work with your school/district Perkins data as these will be the available pathways for next year's reporting. Schools will identify their approved pathways from the 2022-2023 school year when completing the Perkins E-grant application for the 2023-2024 school year.

Thank you for your time to review and complete the Pathway Approval Form(s) and please let me know if there are any questions or if any additional information is needed.

New Career and Financial Literacy Resources from EVERFI

EVERFI is excited to share new additions to our catalog of 100% cost-free and standards aligned resources for Montana educators. Check out the below lessons added during this school year (and our [Full Catalog of digital lessons](#) for K-12 educators).

[Accounting Careers](#) (High School): Shows high school students how an accounting background can help them achieve their career goals. Learners are exposed to the wide range of careers available in the accounting and finance space.

[Sustainable Investing](#) (High School): Teachers the benefits of sustainable investing with a focus on responsible decision-making that aligns to personal values and how to leave a lasting social impact.

[SmartEconomics](#) (Middle School): Through three fun and interactive exercises, students learn to make real-life decisions that require the understanding of key economic concepts such as the pros and cons of lowering taxes, identifying signs of a strong economy, and understanding the law of supply and demand.

Questions? Reach out to your local EVERFI support representative Sean at stthomas@everfi.com.

EVERFI is offering virtual Financial Literacy and Career Readiness workshops for Financial Literacy month! If you're interested having Sean visit your classroom virtually and host an interactive workshop with your students, you can reach him at stthomas@everfi.com.

Apply Today to Attend Jump\$tart National Educator Conference for Free in November

Teachers, sponsors, speakers, exhibitors, and other supporters of financial education are gathering November 4-6 for the 14th annual [Jump\\$tart National Educator Conference](#) at the Gila River Resort and Casino in Chandler, Arizona, to expand the actionable impact of effective financial education in the classroom.

For teachers, the Jump\$tart National Educator Conference remains an all-[scholarship](#) event. This year, Jump\$tart and its generous scholarship providers and donors will be providing 375 classroom educators with scholarships covering full conference registration, two hotel nights, and six conference meals. Participants are responsible for travel.

All teachers who will attend the conference are recipients of a scholarship from Jump\$tart or one of our scholarship partners. [Scholarship applications](#) are now open and are due August 18.

Registration Now Open for Montana STEM Summer Institute—July 31-August 2 in Bozeman

The [5th Annual Montana STEM Summer Institute](#)—*Spark Curiosity with STEM*—is a one-of-a-kind, Montana-made showcase for STEM integration across all grades and subject areas. The [5th Annual Montana STEM Summer Institute](#) will be held July 31-August 2 at MSU Bozeman. [Registration](#) is now open with an early bird rate of \$191.25 thru May 31 and a rate of \$180 for School Systems of Montana member schools.

You will enjoy exemplary K-12 STEM instruction and resources, inspiring national speakers, and the best of Bozeman and MSU. The interactive agenda is designed to spark curiosity about STEM practices and projects, not only for your students, but for educators, too. During the Institute you will discover how Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics complement one another and combine to motivate powerful 21st century learning. Ignite your curiosity as you engage in purposeful networking, attend demonstration sessions and mini-workshops, and meet our inspirational keynote speakers.

Discounted lodging options are available for attendees. Please visit the [Montana STEM Summer Institute](#) website for details.

Free Cybersecurity Curriculum Opportunity from Teach Cyber

Is Your School Offering or Expanding a Cybersecurity Program in Fall 2023? The [Teach Cyber Schools](#) program will enable high schools that have high under-served and/or highly diverse populations and limited resources to establish and/or grow student interest in cybersecurity by providing resources and support to teachers and administrators. We plan to work with high schools that have existing cybersecurity course(s) or plan to offer a cybersecurity course Fall 2023.

What does the Teach Cyber High Schools program offer?

- No Cost Quality Curriculum
- Safe-Sandboxed Virtual Environment for Hands-On Learning
- Teacher Professional Development - Initial and Ongoing
- Best Practices in Cybersecurity Learning
- Support for Placement and Dual Credit
- A Community of Practice

How is this program possible? Thanks to generous donor support, this 3-year program is offered at no cost to high schools. The Teach Cyber Schools program is valued at \$45,000 for selected schools.

Do you want to learn more about the Teach Cyber High Schools program? Join the Teach Cyber High Schools program information session on April 27 at 6:30 pm (MDT). To register for this session, please email Jenny Daugherty at jenny.daugherty@darkenterprisesinc.com.

Is Your School Interested in becoming a [Teach Cyber High School](#)? To apply to be considered as a Teach Cyber High School, click [here](#). The deadline to apply is May 1, 2023.

Get Inspired for Financial Literacy Month with Hot Topics in Financial Education

April is Financial Literacy Month, and the [Next Gen Personal Finance](#) (NGPF) Community is already off to a great start.

You are cordially invited to NGPF's next BIG virtual conference: Hot Topics in Financial Education. This virtual event takes place all day Saturday, April 29. It is 100% free. [Register](#) for sessions today.

Why you will love this conference:

- Consider how events like the Silicon Valley Bank collapse, the rise of ChatGPT, cryptocurrency volatility, and Buy Now Pay Later impact your students.
- Collaborate with hundreds of terrific teachers.
- Pick and choose from useful breakout sessions and energizing keynotes.
- Find free classroom-ready resources that you can use the very next school day.
- Win fun raffles and prizes.

The [Hot Topics in Financial Education](#) sessions begin at 8:00 am (MDT) and run throughout the day with the Raffle and Wrap Up session starting at 3:00 pm (MDT).

If you participate in the [Hot Topics in Financial Education](#) sessions, you can work with your school/district to receive OPI Renewal Units for sessions completed.

Registration Open for NGPF's Cohort 33 Certification Courses

As the school year winds down, now is the perfect time to get one more FREE in-depth Next Gen Persona Finance (NGPF) [Certification Course](#) in and be able to implement your new knowledge in the classroom (and personal life) right away.

This is the last five-week session NGPF is offering before they kick off the three-week summer cadence in June. Cohort 33 runs from April 24-May 25 with an exam window from May 26-June 2.

Courses offered include

- Advanced Investing: Tuesdays, 3-5 pm (MDT)
- Behavioral Economics: Mondays, 3-5 pm (MDT)
- Career: Tuesdays, 5-7 pm (MDT)
- Cryptocurrency Basics: Wednesdays, 5-7 pm (MDT)
- Insurance: Wednesday , 3-5 pm (MDT)

What is an NGPF Certification Course? Certification Courses are NGPF's most in-depth professional development format. Each course combines nine hours of live virtual sessions over five weeks focused on a core personal finance content area with a one-hour assessment exam.

These courses are 100% free. To earn OPI Renewal Units for courses/hours completed, you will need to work with your school/district.

Complete six certification courses and earn [NGPF Distinguished Educator](#) status.

500 Horatio Alger CTE Scholarships are now Available

Students, aged 18-35, can earn up to \$2,500 for a Certification or Technical program with the [Horatio Alger Scholarship](#). The funds can assist students with tuition, fees, supplies, uniforms, transportation, etc...

Scholarships are awarded up to \$2,500 to pursue a career certification or technical education at an accredited non-profit post-secondary institution in the United States.

For more details and to find a program, visit the [Horatio Alger Scholarship](#) page on the ACTE website.

FREE National Cybersecurity Teaching Academy (NCTA) Summer Professional Development

[Enroll in the Foundations of Cybersecurity course](#) this summer. This self-paced course is free for all certified U.S. K-12 teachers registered by May 1, 2023.

The Foundations of Cybersecurity is the first of six courses in the NCTA program. The course covers the big ideas of cybersecurity including the CIA triad (confidentiality, integrity, and availability). The course is administered asynchronously online via Canvas LMS. A synchronous option may be available depending on the requirements of your state.

A proctored exam is required to receive graduate credit. Participants must pay any fees associated with the exam. Scholarship funds may be available for the three-credit course transfer to one of the participating universities.

For more information you can read the flyer [here](#). If you have questions, please contact Sandra Leiterman at saleiterman@ualr.edu.

MFEC Accepting Mini-Grant Applications Through April 15

The [Montana Financial Education Coalition](#) (MFEC) is proud to promote local efforts to expand financial education across Montana. The MFEC provides mini-grants which are intended to help support activities in local communities that are rooted in Financial Literacy Awareness.

[Mini-grant applications](#) are being accepted until April 15. The maximum amount of any mini-grant awarded is \$750.

Mini-grant applications should be emailed to cromano@mt.gov or mailed to MFEC, P.O. Box 200546, Helena, MT 59620.

For additional information please visit the [MFEC's mini-grant webpage](#).

Free & Virtual Summer Computer Science Course Offering from MSU

[CSCI 581 Computer Science in the Classroom: Computational Thinking for Teachers](#) is a two (2) credit course being offered this summer for FREE to Montana teachers.

This virtual (synchronous) course examines the computing field and how it impacts the human condition. Exciting ideas and influential people are introduced. A gentle introduction to computational thinking using the Python programming language is provided. The course also introduces participants to robotic platforms.

CSCI 581 will be offered virtually July 17-31, 2023, from 8:00 am-5:00 pm daily. The course will be taught by MSU Bozeman Computer Science Faculty, Hunter Lloyd.

Full tuition stipends are available for teachers in Montana who submit a letter of support from an administrator and a brief letter of intent.

Visit the MSU MSSE program website for registration, application and other information: montana.edu/msse or msse@montana.edu.

NOTE: you can take MSSE classes as a non-degree seeking student—you do not need to be admitted to the MSU Master of Science in Science Education (MSSE) program to take this course.

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.

Free Summer Virtual Professional Development from CYBER.org

[CYBER.org](#) is offering three (3) professional development events during the summer for teachers wanting to learn more about teaching cyber education and cybersecurity. The weeklong, five days, events will be offered virtually with both asynchronous and synchronous learning methods.

[Cybersecurity Bootcamp](#) will be offered June 26-30 and, again, July 24-28. This event is a full five-day professional development (8-10 am and 12-2 pm MDT) that includes a mixture of both asynchronous and synchronous learning. Attendees will use the new CYBER.ORG Range that is free to all K-12 Educators within the United States and hear from the range developers some tips for best practices. Participants will meet each morning to learn new cybersecurity content and run through a class from the student’s perspective.

Attendees will work through challenging and technical labs with the CYBER.ORG staff while running through less challenging labs on their own. Attendees will also review selected Case Studies on their own and then discuss as a whole group. New to 2023, there will be a beginner track for those still getting used to using a cyber range and an advanced track for participants who are comfortable using a cyber range.

[Intro to Cybersecurity Bootcamp](#) will be held July 17-21, from 8-10 am and 12-2 pm MDT. This is a new course for 2023 and is at both middle schools and high schools who are trying to implement a cybersecurity course that is not as technical as CYBER.ORG’s technical Cybersecurity course.

This course was created by New Jersey's Garden State Cyber, piloted by New Jersey teachers in the 2022-2023 school year, and obtained by CYBER.ORG to be used in all classrooms across the country. Using a mixture of both asynchronous and synchronous learning, participants will meet each morning to learn new cybersecurity content and run through a class from the student's perspective. Attendees will work through labs with the CYBER.ORG staff as well as work through labs and activities on their own.

Attendees will use the new CYBER.ORG Range that is free to all K-12 Educators within the United States and hear some tips from the range developers for best practices.

[CYBER.org](#) also hosts a series of hour-long professional development sessions throughout the year on various topics related to their free curriculum and resources. Please visit the [CYBER.org Events](#) page for details regarding all their free, virtual events and professional development opportunities.

Foundation for Economics Education Conference in Las Vegas—Free Hotel & Registration

The [Foundation for Economics Education](#) (FEE) invites all teachers teaching, or interested in teaching, economics to Las Vegas, June 27-28. This two-day professional development event will equip you with the pedagogical tools and instructional resources to start you on the way to becoming a master Economics educator. This professional development includes a complimentary hotel stay the nights of June 27 and June 28 at [Red Rocks Resort & Spa](#).

A \$49 deposit is required when [registering](#) to hold your place and will be refunded in full upon your attendance at this professional development. If you must cancel your registration, please do so 7 days in advance of the event to receive a full refund.

Please visit the [FEE website](#) for more information and/or to create a free account to access [conference details](#) and FEE materials.

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 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. [Applications](#) close on April 28, 2023.

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

Aladdin is an animated feature about a street-smart young thief in the mythical city of Agrabah who meets and falls in love with the Sultan’s beautiful daughter, Jasmine, a liberated young lady who seeks to escape her present lifestyle.

Help comes when the evil vizier, Jafar, plots to get a magic lamp for his own rise to power, and decides he needs Aladdin, a true “diamond in the rough,” to seek the lamp in the Cave of Wonders.

Aladdin and his friend, the monkey Abu, gain the lamp and the wise-cracking Genie inside for themselves.

The Genie changes Aladdin into a prince so he can woo the princess, but the deception fails to impress Jasmine.

As his true self, however, he uses his cunning and courage, with the help of the Genie, to defeat Jafar and his evil plans, in the end earning a princely title and the princess.

Aladdin was initially release on November 11, 1992; with general release on November 25, 1992.

Aladdin has a speaking voice provided by Scott Weinger and a singing voice by Brad Kane.

Other voices were provided by Robin Williams (Genie), Jonathan Freeman (Jafar), Linda Larkin (Jasmine speaking), Lea Salonga (Jasmine singing), and Gilbert Gottfried (Iago).

The idea of adapting the Aladdin story as a Disney animated musical was first proposed by Howard Ashman in 1988 when he and Alan Menken were still working on *The Little Mermaid*.

He wrote an initial treatment and collaborated on six songs with Menken, including “Arabian Nights,” “Friend Like Me,” and “Prince Ali.”

After Ashman’s death in 1991, Tim Rice came on board to write some additional songs, notably “One Jump Ahead” and “A Whole New World.”

The art directors were influenced by Persian miniatures and Arabian calligraphy.

Supervising animator Eric Goldberg, who created the Genie, was the first animator to work on the project.

Computer-generated imagery enabled the filmmakers to create the amazing magic carpet ride through the Cave of Wonders, the intricately-patterned carpet itself, and the stunning tiger head cave.

The film won Academy Awards for Best Song ("A Whole New World") and Best Original Score.

Aladdin became the highest grossing animated film to date, earning over \$200 million domestically.

A live action adaptation of Disney's animated *Aladdin* was released on May 24, 2019.

The live action film stars Will Smith (Genie/Mariner), Mena Massoud (Aladdin), Naomi Scott (Jasmine), Marwan Kenzari (Jafar), Navid Negahban (Sultan), Nasim Pedrad (Dalia), Billy Magnussen (Prince Anders), and Numan Acar (Hakim).

A stage musical version of the animated film opened at Seattle's 5th Street Theater in July 2011.

Princess Jasmine is one of the 13 official Disney princesses.

Princess Jasmine is the only princess who is not based on a fairy tale as the story of *Aladdin* comes from the book 'One Thousand and One Nights'.

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.

Eric Swenson
Business Education Specialist
Montana Office of Public Instruction
PO Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501
406.444.7991
406.444.1373 (Fax)
eswenson@mt.gov



"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