

## **THE WEDNESDAY READER**

### **May 15, 2024**

Please note, there will not be a Wednesday Reader next week, May 22, as I will be out of the office beginning Noon Monday, May 20 and returning Tuesday, May 28. The last Wednesday Reader of the school year will be Wednesday, May 29.

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### **Budgeting & Planning for Professional Development in the 2024-2025 School Year**

As you make plans for next school year's budgets, below is a listing of state-, regional-, and national-level professional development events for Business & Marketing Education and Career & Technical Education. Both Perkins and State CTE funds can be used to support your participation in these events.

#### Montana Business Education Summer Update 2024

- Wednesday, July 31 at Glacier High School, Kalispell
- Wednesday, August 7 at Capital High School, Helena
- Wednesday, August 14 at Skyview High School, Billings

New CTE Professionals 2025 Workshop (Dates and details coming Fall 2024)

- Two Virtual Sessions in Mid-September & Early October
- In-Person Session October 16 at the Billings Hotel & Convention Center, Billings

#### Montana ACTE Fall Institute

- October 17-18; Billings Hotel & Convention Center, Billings

#### ACTE's CareerTech VISION Conference

- December 4-7; San Antonio, Texas

#### WBEA 2025 Wild Card Conference

- February 14-16; DoubleTree Hotel, Billings
- [Call for Presentations is Open](#)—share your ideas, projects, and successes

#### ACTE Region V Conference

- May 1-3; South Point Hotel, Casino, & Spa, Las Vegas

Please note, the [National Business Education Association](#) (NBEA) is moving their national conference from a spring to a fall event; therefore, the 2025 conference will be October 21-24 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

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### **Survey Regarding Financial Literacy Curriculum**

Our colleague Mary Lane S. Simbre of Northern Cheyenne Tribal School in Busby, Montana, is engaged in a project that aims to develop a financial literacy curriculum into after-school programs. During this preliminary stage, she would like to find out the interest of teachers in this project.

Educators are encouraged to take part in this survey, as insights are very important. The responses from teachers will impact the roadmap for this endeavor. Please take a couple of minutes to complete this [survey](#); your responses are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for participating.

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**NGPF Announces Summer Certification Courses—Both Live & On-demand Options Available**  
[Next Gen Personal Finance](#) (NGPF) announces the opening of registration for their [Summer Certification Cohort 44](#) with courses beginning June 3 and Cohort 45 with courses beginning July 8.

Summer is prime time to boost your finance knowledge and get lesson ideas in preparation for the fall without all the distractions the school year brings. NGPF is offering three back-to-back cohorts with both live and on-demand formats. Each cohort is an accelerated three-week timeframe.

Cohort 44 live courses being offered include training June 3-19 with an exam window June 21-28.

- [Banking & Budgeting](#): Mondays and Wednesdays, 3-5 pm (MDT)
- [Cryptocurrency Basics](#): Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3-5 pm (MDT)

Three on-demand courses are being offered and will be available June 3 and must be completed by June 19.

- [Advanced Investing](#) (Invite only. Participants must pass the Investing Certification Course to receive the invite for Advanced Investing.)
- [Behavioral Economics](#)
- [Career](#)

Cohort 45's live courses will be offered July 8-25 with an exam window July 26-August 2.

- [Insurance](#): Mondays and Thursdays, 10 am-12 pm (MDT)

Cohort 45 will also offer three (3) on-demand courses with training needing to be completed by July 25 with an exam window July 27-August 2.

- [Credit](#)
- [Investing](#)
- [Paying for College](#)

Mark your calendars for [Cohort 46](#) with courses running July 29-August 15 and exams August 16-23. Two live courses will be offered—Career and Cryptocurrency Basics—along with two on-demand courses—Banking & Budgeting and Consumer Skills.

NGPF Certification courses are 100% free and are NGPF's most in-depth professional development. If you complete six certification courses, you earn [NGPF Distinguished Educator](#) status. For more details on what you will learn, visit the [NGPF Course Catalog](#).

If you participate in NGPF Certification courses, work with your school/district to earn OPI renewal units for your time.

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**Preparing for Perkins Grant Applications—What Needs to be Completed & Submitted**

Perkins applications for the 2024-2025 school year (FY25) will open soon in E-Grants. To get ready for this year's application process, I want to share some information to help clarify this year's process.

With this next year being an odd-numbered fiscal year, 2025/FY25, an updated Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA) is needed. In even-numbered fiscal years, copies of CTE Advisory Committee meeting minutes are needed.

Earlier in the year, schools were asked to complete an online [Comprehensive Needs Assessment](#) as part of the new accreditation process. Please note, this Comprehensive Needs Assessment is similar, but different than the Perkins's Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment previously completed and submitted to E-Grants.

If your district completed the OPI online Comprehensive Needs Assessment, it will also count for the Perkins Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment requirement. Yet, some additional information will be needed.

If you are working on your district's Perkins grant and are not sure if your district completed the OPI online Comprehensive Needs Assessment, check with your district administration. At this time, CTE Specialists do not have access to check to see which districts did or did not complete the OPI online Comprehensive Needs Assessment. If needed, district administrators can request a copy of the OPI online Comprehensive Needs Assessment results from the OPI's [Accreditation page](#) or directly [here](#).

If your district did complete the OPI online Comprehensive Needs Assessment, then only pages 8-15 of the [New 2024-2027 CLNA Worksheet](#) need to be completed. Using the link, scroll down to the Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment section and the worksheet will be listed in red text. The following pages of the worksheet will need to be completed and uploaded into E-Grants.

- Page 8: Data regarding Perkins Performance Measures.
- Pages 9 & 10: Identification and details regarding any changes/improvements made over the past two (2) years since the last CLNA update was submitted for the 2022-2023 Perkins grant in fall 2022.
- Page 11: Listing of the main strategies updated in the OPI online Comprehensive Needs Assessment to meet the goals of each section.
- Pages 12-14: These are the same summary questions from the CLNA Summary page of the Perkins E-Grant application. You can complete them in the worksheet now and copy and paste into E-Grants when applications open.
- Page 15: Identification of the individuals (school and community) who participated in the online Comprehensive Needs Assessment process and/or helped review the data and provided input. This can include members of the local CTE Advisory Committee.

The worksheet linked above is a PDF file, if you would like the Word version, you can download a shared copy [here](#). If you have issues accessing the download, please let me know and can email the Word version to you.

If previous years' CLNAs need to be referenced, an [infographic](#) has been developed showing how to access previously submitted Perkins applications in E-Grants. The infographic is also displayed on the [Perkins V page](#) of the OPI website.

If your district did not complete the OPI online Comprehensive Needs Assessment, then the complete [New 2024-2027 CLNA Worksheet](#) will need to be completed and uploaded into E-Grants.

If you do not know which CTE Specialist is your Perkins grant liaison, a listing with contact information is available [here](#).

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### **Wondering Where Your Updated Montana Career Pathway Forms are for this Spring???**

Beginning this school year, 2023-2024, OPI discontinued the use of TEAMS and all the course and student enrollment data reporting moved to AIM/Infinite Campus. With the change in reporting systems, there has been a delay in CTE Specialists receiving the data for the 2023-2024 CTE Participation Reports.

The course data in these reports are used to help create and/or update the [Montana Career Pathways](#) approval forms sent out each spring. The data in these reports, along with Career & Technical Student Organization (CTSO) membership numbers, are used to generate the State CTE funding allocations.

In previous years, the CTE Participation Reports have been received by CTE Specialists around the end of March/first part of April, with pathway approval forms emailed out mid- to late-April/first part of May.

At this time, work is still being done to compile the necessary data from AIM/Infinite Campus and to generate this year's reports with no timeline shared as to when everything will be completed.

Therefore, there is a chance pathway approvals forms will not be sent out before the end of the school year; especially since many schools are down to their final two or three weeks of the year.

Please note, I will get them sent out as soon as I can. Thank you for your continued patience as we navigate all the changes.

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### **Montana Business Education Summer Update 2024—Register Today for this Free Event**

[Registration](#) is now open for the [Montana Business Education Summer Update 2024](#). Three (3) sessions will be held across the state and participation is free. Sessions will be held on the following days.

- Wednesday, July 31 at Glacier High School, Kalispell
- Wednesday, August 7 at Capital High School, Helena
- Wednesday, August 14 at Skyview High School, Billings

Preregistration for the [Montana Business Education Summer Update 2024](#) is required for all planning to participate to ensure proper counts for resources to be shared and to ensure space availability. Please complete your registration by Friday, June 21.

The Montana Business Education Summer Update 2024 topics will focus on artificial intelligence and preparing for the new Economics/Financial Literacy graduation requirement. The morning session will focus on A.I. for the Business & Marketing Education classroom and the afternoon will include activities and resources for creating/enhancing a Career Development Unit in a Financial Literacy-related course. A Montana Business & Marketing/CTE/OPI update will also take place with information and updated resources related to Business & Marketing and CTE curriculum and programming for the 2024-2025 school year.

Each session will begin at 9:00 am and conclude by 4:00 pm. Below is a complete schedule for each session.

8:30 am	Registration Materials Pickup
9 am	Welcome and Introductions
9:30 am	A.I. for the Business Education Classroom
10:30 am	Break
10:45 am	Exploring A.I. and Creating Resources
Noon	Lunch (on your own)
1 pm	Montana Business Education & CTE Update
1:30 pm	Resources for Creating/Enhancing a Career Development Unit in a Personal Finance Course
2:15 pm	Break
2:30 pm	Hands-on Activities for Creating/Enhancing a Career Development Unit in a Personal Finance Course
3:45 pm	Wrap Up, Closing, & OPI Renewal Unit Materials

The Montana Business Education Summer Update is a free, one-day professional development event for Montana’s Business & Marketing Education professionals. Attendees can earn up to six (6) OPI renewal units and are responsible for their own transportation, lodging, and meals. Both Perkins and State CTE funds can be used to help support participation and travel.

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### **CYBER.ORG Hosting CYBER.ORG EdCon24 June 15-17 in Orlando**

Join [CYBER.ORG](#) in Orlando, Florida, June 15-17, 2024, for [CYBER.ORG EdCon24](#) at the DoubleTree at Universal. Registration is now open and classroom teachers can register for \$50.00.

CYBER.ORG EdCon is an annual national conference designed to inspire and empower novice and expert K-12 educators, including teachers, counselors, and administrators, with the skills and resources to teach cybersecurity. Presented by the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and made possible by industry partners, EdCon24 is designed to ignite passion for teaching K-12 cybersecurity education and improve student cybersecurity literacy and knowledge of cybersecurity careers.

Attendees will have the opportunity to:

- Learn ready-to-implement lessons from CYBER.ORG curriculum developers and the CYBER.ORG Range.
- Explore no-cost resources from industry experts.
- Gain firsthand knowledge and expert industry insight from K-12 educators teaching foundational and technical cybersecurity.
- Network with peers in education and industry to build valuable connections.
- Earn PD credits for attending sessions throughout the conference.
- Explore Universal Studios after the conference concludes with discounted passes.

Register for [EdCon24](#) and join the CYBER.ORG community dedicated to shaping K-12 education and the future cybersecurity workforce.

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### **Registration Now Open for Empowered’s RiseUp Workshops**

[Empowered](#) is again hosting their one-day [RiseUp Workshops](#) with three sessions being offered—Atlanta, Georgia; Jackson, Mississippi; and Wichita, Kansas.

The hosted RiseUp Workshops cost \$25/attendee. In exchange for the investment in the event, all participants will receive:

- Parking, breakfast, lunch, beverages, and snacks, parking,
- All materials/resources needed for the session and an Empowered tote bag
- On-going, no-cost access to [Empowered Hub](#),
- 1:1 Follow-Up Sessions to ensure you have what you need to get started and go deeper, and a
- Professional Development Certificate.

Empowered is planning additional tour events for the rest of 2024 and all of 2025 and your interest can help them choose locations. [Fill out this form](#) to nominate a location and Empowered will use the information to gauge interest.

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### **MSU Offering CSCI 581 Computer Science in the Classroom for Teachers in July**

Montana State University is offering CSCI 581 Computer Science in the Classroom: Computational Thinking for Teachers this summer, July 8-12, 2024. The course is free to Montana teachers and will be offered via a synchronous virtual format.

The 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.

The course will meet 8 am-5 pm daily and will be taught by MSU Bozeman Computer Science faculty member Dr. Hunter Lloyd. A full tuition stipend is available for Montana teachers 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 or send an email to [msse@montana.edu](mailto:msse@montana.edu) for questions.

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

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### **Free Future Rural Educators' Summer Camp for Juniors & Seniors**

Calling all college-bound juniors and seniors—the [Future Rural Educators' Summer Camp](#) is an all-expense paid immersive experience for rising juniors and seniors seeking to become teachers.

The [Future Rural Educators' Summer Camp](#) will be held June 16-21, 2024, on the Montana State University campus in Bozeman. Participants will stay on campus.

The Future Rural Educators' Summer Camp will feature—

- Teaching Orientation: Teaching experience, leadership orientation, and mentorship from award-winning teachers and faculty.
- Campus Orientation: Admissions coaching, financial aid coaching, and residence life intro.
- Community Orientation: Extreme history walk, hiking, swimming, kayaking, bowling, live music, and more.

Future attendance at MSU not required, mileage to and from the camp is reimbursed, and all expenses paid.

Interested?

Step #1: Sign up for the Future Rural Educators' Summer Camp [here](#).

Step #2: Submit your application for the immersive summer camp experience.

More information about the Rural Teachers Pathway project is available on the [MSU website](#).

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### **Applications are Now Open for Code.org's Professional Learning Program—Scholarships Available for Montana Teachers**

Applications are now open for Code.org's [Professional Learning Program](#) for middle and high school educators! Explore the CS curriculum and collaborate with educators of all experience levels to develop lesson plans and hone your teaching strategies for the 2024-2025 academic year.

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, Computer Science Principles, or AP Computer Science A in the summer, with academic year workshops thereafter.

[Computer Science Discoveries](#) offerings—

- June 17-21: Boise, Idaho
- June 24-28: Virtual
- July 22-26: Virtual
- July 29-August 2: Tukwila, Washington
- August 17-October 2: Virtual

[Computer Science Principles](#) offerings—

- June 17-21: Boise, Idaho
- June 24-28: Virtual
- July 22-26: Virtual
- July 29-August 2: Tukwila, Washington

[AP Computer Science A](#) offerings—

- June 17-21: Boise, Idaho
- June 24-28: Virtual
- July 29-August 2: Tukwila, Washington

The cost of CSA, CSD or CSP is \$1,500/person. This covers the tuition of both the summer and academic year workshops (9 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.

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## **Fun Facts & Trivia**

Yosemite National Park is located in east-central California, east of the city of Modesto, California.

Yosemite National Park was established on October 1, 1890, and is the Nation's third oldest national park.

The park was established for the purpose of preservation of the resources that contribute to its uniqueness and attractiveness.

Congress recognized the importance of preserving this great park for future public enjoyment when it established Yosemite National Park.

Yosemite National Park is a showcase of spectacular geological features, including the greatest concentration of granite domes in the world and the largest exposed granite monolith in the world.

The first application of a park concept originated in Yosemite with the Grant of 1864 (Federal land given to California for preservation) signed by Abraham Lincoln and since that time the park has played an important role in pioneering park management concepts.

Yosemite National Park possesses outstanding recreational values and supreme scenic attractions, including alpine and subalpine wilderness, three groves of giant sequoia trees, and thundering waterfalls that are among the world's highest.

Yosemite National Park is a world heritage site which has made a significant contribution to California's cultural heritage, to the national park movement, and to Yosemite's 4,000 years of cultural heritage by Native Americans.

Yosemite was the birthplace of the idea of the Sierra Club and plays an important role in wildlife preservation and preserving biological diversity.

Yosemite National Park embraces almost 1,200 square miles of scenic wild lands set aside in 1890 to preserve a portion of the central Sierra Nevada that stretches along California's eastern flank.

The park ranges from 2,000 feet above sea level to more than 13,000 feet and has the major attractions of alpine wilderness, three groves of Giant Sequoias and the glacially carved Yosemite Valley with impressive waterfalls, cliffs and unusual rock formations.

Yosemite National Park is made up of over 761,266 acres of both federal and non-federal land.

Hidden in Yosemite National Park's peaceful northwest corner, Hetch Hetchy Valley is a treasure worth visiting in all seasons.

The Hetch Hetchy Valley is on the main stem of the Tuolumne River and is part of the Tuolumne watershed.

The Hetch Hetchy Valley is dammed by the 430-foot-tall O'Shaughnessy Dam and has a storage capacity of 360,360 acre-feet. It is the primary water source for about 2.7 million residents of the San Francisco Bay Area.

Swimming and boating are prohibited in Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in order to maintain a clean source of drinking water.

Mirror Lake is one of the favorites among photographers and artists.

While its name implies a sense of majesty, this lake is actually more of a small pond, and it dries up in some parts of the year.

During its peak in the spring, however, as the melted ice caps cascade down the mountains, something magical happens as the still waters of Mirror Lake provide a mirror reflection of both Half Dome and Mount Watkins.

Perhaps the most famous of all the national park hotels, the Ahwahnee has had made guests of queens and presidents alike as Queen Elizabeth II, President Eisenhower, President Kennedy, President Reagan, and President Obama have all lodged here.

The Ahwahnee was the brainchild of National Park Service Director Stephen Mather who wanted first class hotels in first class parks.

Originally opening for business in 1927, the hotel was designed to blend in with its natural surroundings.

The theme chosen was a Native American one to honor the valley's first human inhabitants.

The indigenous natives of Yosemite called themselves the Ahwahneechee, meaning "dwellers" in Ahwahnee.

The Ahwahneechee People were the only tribe that lived within the park boundaries, but other tribes lived in surrounding areas.

Located at the east end of Yosemite Valley, The Ahwahnee is surrounded by many of Yosemite's most famous icons as a casual stroll of the hotel grounds reveals views of Half Dome, Yosemite Falls, and Glacier Point.

During World War II, the Ahwahnee served as a naval supply hospital.

The Cathedral Lakes are two lakes situated a mile southwest of Cathedral Peak.



The lower lake is located at an elevation of 9,288 feet, while the upper lake is located at 9,585 feet above sea level.

Cathedral Peak is part of the Cathedral Range, a mountain range in the south-central portion of Yosemite National Park and an offshoot of the Sierra Nevada, and has an elevation of 10,916 feet above sea level.

The peak which lends its name to the range derives its name from its cathedral-shaped peak, which was formed by glacial activity; the peak remained uneroded above the glaciers in the Pleistocene.

El Capitan is a vertical rock formation in Yosemite National Park, on the north side of Yosemite Valley, near its western end.

The granite monolith is about 3,000 feet from base to summit along its tallest face and is a world-famous location for big wall climbing, including the disciplines of aid climbing, free climbing, and more recently for free solo climbing.

The formation was named "El Capitan" by the Mariposa Battalion of the California militia when they explored the valley in 1851.

El Capitán ("the captain" or "the chief") was taken to be a loose Spanish translation of the local Native American name for the cliff, "Tutokanula" or "Rock Chief".

El Capitan is composed almost entirely of a pale, coarse-grained granite approximately 100 million years old.

Half Dome is a quartz monzonite batholith at the eastern end of Yosemite Valley in Yosemite National Park.

It is a well-known rock formation in the park, named for its distinct shape.

One side is a sheer face while the other three sides are smooth and round, making it appear like a dome cut in half.

It stands at nearly 8,800 feet above sea level and is composed of quartz monzonite, an igneous rock that solidified several thousand feet within the Earth.

At its core are the remains of a magma chamber that cooled slowly and crystallized beneath the Earth's surface.

The solidified magma chamber was then exposed and cut in half by erosion, therefore leading to the geographic name Half Dome.

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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*