Please note, after today, there will only be two (2) more Wednesday Readers for the school year—May 15 and May 29. There will not be one for Wednesday, May 22 as I will be out the week of May 20.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 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.

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.

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.

Fun Facts & Trivia

Yellowstone National Park is a national park located primarily in the state of Wyoming, although it also extends into Montana and Idaho.

It was established by the U.S. Congress and signed into law by President Ulysses S. Grant on March 1, 1872.

Yellowstone, the first National Park in the U.S. and widely held to be the first national park in the world, is known for its wildlife and its many geothermal features, especially Old Faithful Geyser, one of the most popular features in the park.

It has many types of ecosystems, but the subalpine forest is the most abundant.

It is part of the South-Central Rockies forests ecoregion.

The Yellowstone Falls of the park's Yellowstone River is a two-tiered waterfall first plunging 108 feet at the Upper Falls and then an awe-inspiring 308 feet at the Lower Falls.

Yellowstone Falls is the tallest waterfall in the Rockies.

The Upper Geyser Basin is probably the most popular area in the park as it is home to Old Faithful, famous for its predictability and awe-inspiring eruptions, and the Castle, Grotto, and Grand Geysers.

Yellowstone's famous geyser Old Faithful erupts almost hourly, or about 20 times a day, reaching heights of 100-180 feet.

The Old Faithful Inn was designed by Robert C. Reamer, who is said to have wanted the asymmetry of the building to reflect the chaos of nature.

Completed in 1904 at a cost of $140,000, the enormous wood structure with its soaring, seventy-six-foot-tall lobby is considered a masterpiece of rustic "Parkitecture."

The hotel remains one of the largest log-style structures in the world and is a National Historic Landmark.

On top of the Inn's roof is a lofty lookout, referred to as the "widow's walk," with eight flagstaffs at its edges.

At one time it flew colorful pennants and had a U.S. Navy searchlight to illuminate nighttime viewing of Old Faithful eruptions, but the light was removed in 1948.

Today the flagstaffs fly the U.S.A. flag and Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho State flags, as well as four red and blue pennants that reflect the originals.

The Yellowstone Volcano helped create the Old Faithful Inn as the building's foundation and enormous fireplace were constructed from rhyolite—the rock produced by Yellowstone's volcanic eruptions that now forms Yellowstone's caldera.

The fireplace alone is made from 500 tons of this native stone, reportedly quarried from nearby Black Sand Basin.

Black Sand Basin is located just a mile from the famous Old Faithful and is a lesser known but equally fascinating geothermal area.

The basin is home to a collection of hot springs and geysers, including the colorful Emerald Pool and the frequently erupting Cliff Geyser.

Grand Prismatic Spring is the largest hot spring in the United States, and the third largest in the world.

The feature is in Midway Geyser Basin—so named because it is between the Upper and Lower Geyser Basins—and is one of the most popular attractions in Yellowstone National Park.

The first accounts of Grand Prismatic Spring are probably from 1839, when a group of trappers from the American Fur Company noted a "boiling lake" 300 feet across.

Such an impressive feature could only be Grand Prismatic Spring, and in fact the description left by trapper Osborne Russell is the earliest written account of a Yellowstone thermal feature that can be definitely identified.

Grand Prismatic Spring was noted by geologists working in the Hayden Geological Survey of 1871 and named by them for its striking coloration.

Its colors match most of those seen in the rainbow dispersion of white light by an optical prism: red, orange, yellow, green, and blue.

Mammoth Hot Springs is a very unique hot spring that's been drawing onlookers for a very long time.

The intricate terraces of springs here are formed from the geothermal activity going on just beneath the surface.

The Lower Terraces provide the best walking and viewing opportunities of the springs.

Nestled within the Upper Geyser Basin, Biscuit Basin is a bit of a hidden gem, less frequented than its famous neighbor, Old Faithful, but no less remarkable.

Located in Biscuit Basin, Sapphire Pool will likely catch your eye first with its deep blue hue and crystal-clear water; however, this beautiful pool can occasionally turn into a geyser, a reminder of the volatile and dynamic nature of Yellowstone.

One of the historical curiosities of Biscuit Basin is that it was named after the unusual biscuit-like deposits that used to surround Sapphire Pool; unfortunately, a significant eruption in the 1950s swept away these formations, but the name has endured, adding a dash of mystery to your visit.

The Biscuit Basin loop trail is a 1-mile hike taking visitors through a variety of landscapes, including forested areas and a beautiful overlook of the Firehole River, is a good way to explore the area.

Norris Geyser Basin is the hottest and oldest of Yellowstone's thermal areas and is divided into two sections: Porcelain Basin and Back Basin.

Porcelain Basin offers a surreal, almost lunar landscape with its barren, white ground and steaming vents, while Back Basin is home to more forested areas and the tallest active geyser in the world, Steamboat Geyser.

Yellowstone Lake, the largest high elevation lake in North America, is located in the West Thumb Geyser Basin, which offers a blend of aquatic and geothermal attractions.

For National Park connoisseurs a visit to Roosevelt Arch is a must.

It's here that Theodore Roosevelt laid the cornerstone of the archway to America's first national park.

The inscription on the arch reads, "For the benefit and enjoyment of the people" and stands as a monument to America's best idea.

Standing at 50-feet tall and built from hundreds of tons of native columnar basalt, the arch is visible for miles.

It cost $10,000 to construct the arch at the time, which is roughly $340,000 in today's dollars.

Initial designs included landscaped gardens, ponds, and a waterfall surrounding the arch, but these were never realized.

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