

THE WEDNESDAY READER

May 29, 2024

Good morning everyone. Thank you for all the information and resources shared as well as for reading through and using the information in the Wednesday Readers this school year. This will be the last Wednesday Reader for the 2023-2024 school year. The Wednesday Reader is currently scheduled to start on Wednesday, August 28 for the 2024-2025 school year. Have a great summer and congratulations to our new set of retirees.

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.

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.

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.

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](#).

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

Zion National Park was established in 1909 as Mukuntuweap National Monument by President William Howard Taft.

It became Zion National Park in 1919.

The name "Zion" meaning "place of refuge," was given to the canyon by Mormon pioneers.

The park revolves around Zion Canyon, 15 miles long and almost 3,000 feet deep in places.

It also includes much of the surrounding terrain, landscapes that range from desert to the high-altitude forests sprawling across the plateaus above the canyon.

Protected within Zion National Park's 229 square miles is a spectacular cliff-and-canyon landscape and wilderness full of the unexpected including the world's largest arch, Kolob Arch, with a span that measures 310 feet.

In 1923, four years after Zion had become a national park, President Warren G. Harding made a visit to southern Utah as part of a broader tour of the western United States designed to bring him "closer to the people and their conditions."

Harding was impressed by the natural beauty of Zion National Park and the surrounding area and predicted that future Presidents would follow in his footsteps and visit the area.

This visit helped to bring national attention to Zion National Park and helped to establish it as a popular tourist destination.

The Anasazi were the original occupants of Zion Canyon, a civilization that thrived around 1,500 B.C.

Visitors can find traces of their magnificent sandstone villages, network of roads and rock art throughout the park today.

The Virgin River carves and shapes Zion Canyon moving over a million tons of sediment each year. The canyon currently stretches 15 miles and reaches 2,640-foot depths.

Zion Canyon reveals many events of middle geologic times.

The story of Zion begins where that of Grand Canyon ends and ends where that of Bryce Canyon begins.

The geologic records of 2 billion years are incorporated in these three park areas, all located within 120 miles of each other.

Zion National Park has witnessed many changes in landscape and climate.

At times it was covered by the sea; at other times broad rivers traversed its surface; at still other times it was swept by desert winds.

Many of the rocks were laid down by water as gravel, sand, mud, and limy ooze and were consolidated into conglomerates, sandstones, shales, and limestones by the weight of layers above them and by the lime, silica, and iron that cemented the grains.

The California Condor resides in Zion National Park and can be seen soaring or perched near Angels Landing and on Kolob Terrace Road near Lava Point.

These impressive birds have a wingspan of 10 feet from tip to tip, can fly as fast as 55 mph and reach the dizzying heights of 15,000 feet.

Angels Landing in Zion National Park is thought to be one of the scariest hikes in America.

It stands at 1,488 feet above the Virgin River and although only a 2.2-mile hike, it includes many zig zag trails up steep hills, sheer drops and exposed edges.

However, if visitors come prepared and take it carefully, they are rewarded with spectacular 360-degree views 1,500 feet above the canyon floor.

The Zion-Mt. Carmel Highway and Tunnel is indeed a remarkable engineering feat that has made Zion National Park more accessible to visitors.

This 25-mile stretch of road connects Zion to other popular national parks in the area, including the Grand Canyon and Bryce Canyon, and it was completed in 1930.

The highway features a 1.1-mile-long tunnel that cuts through the towering sandstone cliffs of Zion, providing drivers with stunning views of the canyon and its surroundings.

The tunnel was designed to blend in with the natural landscape and includes windows that provide glimpses of the park's beauty.

Today, the Zion-Mt. Carmel Highway and Tunnel remains one of the most popular attractions in Zion National Park, providing visitors with a unique and awe-inspiring experience as they travel through the heart of the park.

During the 2002 Winter Olympics, the Olympic Torch made a 13,500-mile and 65-day journey from Greece to Utah, and it stopped through many of Utah's natural wonders, including Zion National Park, along the way.

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