2026-2027 CTE Impact Grants
Grant Information/Guidelines

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Impact Grants help schools expand equitable access to high-quality career and technical education for students across the region. Funds support projects that strengthen career pathways by investing in industry-grade equipment, reducing transportation barriers, and building teachers' skills through targeted professional development aligned with consortium-identified focus areas. We prioritize proposals tied to local and regional careers, supported by partners, and designed with clear, measurable benefits for students.

Multiple grants will be awarded during this application cycle. Selected grant recipients will receive funds via reimbursement of approved, incurred expenses. Grant applications are reviewed by regional committees.

CTE Impact Grants are one strategy the regional CTE consortium uses to advance Minn. Stat. § 124D.4536. Each funded project must align with at least one of the following statutory objectives:

- *Provide students with industry-level equipment and technologies supporting skill development as identified by CTE consortium partners. (Minn. §124D.4536.2.A.6)*
    - Industry-level equipment means tools, machines, or technology that is the same as (or meaningfully comparable to) what students would use in a real workplace in the targeted career field, and that allows students to practice job-relevant skills aligned to current industry standards. Industry-level equipment should meet most of these characteristics:
        - Work-place aligned: Matches common equipment used by employers in the region or current standard in the industry
        - Skill-producing: Enables students to perform authentic tasks (not just demonstrations)
        - Standards-based: Supports competencies tied to industry expectations, credentials, or recognized skill standards
        - Capacity and durability: Built for repeated use by multiple learners in a lab or shop setting
        - Instructionally integrated: Tied to a course/program plan (who uses it, for what tasks, and how learning is assessed)

- *Provide student transportation reimbursement grants to provide equitable opportunities throughout the region to participate in CTE. (Minn. §124D.4536.2.B.3)*
    - Transportation Reimbursement Grants help cover the added cost of transporting students so they can participate in CTE opportunities they otherwise could not access. Ineligible expenses include vehicle purchases/leases intended as acquisition, routine transportation not connected to the approved CTE access barrier, and general operations like insurance/maintenance/registration. Applicants should describe:
        - What CTE experience students are accessing (CTE course/program, regional/shared facility, employer site, internship/clinical/work-based learning, or CTE-aligned career exploration event).

        - The access barrier (distance, lack of local programming, scheduling limitations, etc.) and why transportation is the limiting factor.
        - Who benefits (estimated students served and the student groups impacted).
        - Your plan (where, when, frequency of trips/routes, and how you will coordinate).

- *Provide teacher professional development in curriculum and skill development in focus areas identified by CTE consortium partners. (Minn. §124D.4536.2.B.2)*

    - Eligible PD costs may include required educator travel when the travel is necessary to participate in approved training, certification, or industry-led learning aligned to consortium-identified focus areas. Eligible costs include registration/training fees, required materials, and trainer costs where applicable.
    - Funding is reimbursement-based for approved, incurred, and paid expenses, with itemized receipts and proof of payment required.

In addition, these priorities have been identified as important to student success and are strongly encouraged as part of your application:

- **Career Connected Learning that Equips Students for Our Future Workforce:** Equipping students for our future workforce by bridging relationships between education and industry to provide accessible, equitable, and inclusive career-connected learning that builds pathways to local/regional careers for all students.

- **Innovative and Aligned Approaches:** Developing/offering new or enhanced CTE programs, pathways, and experiences that harness creativity and innovation and accelerate quality student learning in alignment with local/regional high-wage, in-demand careers. See the Career Pathways Tool to identify high-wage, in-demand careers for your region.

- **Collaboration to Accelerate Quality Learning:** Intentional engagement of industry and education partners such as neighboring school districts, local/regional businesses, business/labor organizations or associations, chambers of commerce, economic development, workforce development, higher education, nonprofit/community-based organizations, and community action agencies. These partners ensure your project advances student learning tied to local/regional careers.

SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS REVIEW GUIDANCE
Submitted applications will be evaluated based on:

Project Focus and Outcomes:

- Clear description of what you will do and what you want to achieve
- Specific outcomes for students (and partners, if applicable) and how you will measure success.
- Clear connection to at least one required funding purpose (equipment, transportation, or teacher professional development)

Collaborative Partnerships and Regional Careers

- Clear description of what you will do and what you want to achieve.
- Specific outcomes for students (and partners, if applicable) and how you will measure success.
- Clear connection to at least one required funding purpose (equipment, transportation, or teacher professional development)

Budget and Sustainability

- Clear, detailed budget showing how funds will be used and why costs are necessary.
- Plan for how the project will continue after grant funds are spent.
  Reimbursement only for approved, eligible expenses that have been incurred and paid.
- Funds may not be used for building/construction or site acquisition, building additions/expansions, ongoing/base employee salaries, gifts/novelty items (unless specifically approved), or vendor exhibit fees intended for vendor profit.

REIMBURSEMENT AND DOCUMENTATION

Reimbursements require proof of purchase and proof of payment, plus documentation that the cost aligns with the approved application and budget. Applicants must follow their local procurement requirements and maintain itemized records. Equipment purchases will be subject to inventory/asset documentation upon request. *Pre-approval is required for any budget changes after award notification.*

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

- **Carefully review funding guidelines and application requirements.**
- **Please complete all components of the application form.**
- **Applications must be submitted by the posted deadlines found on the application.**
- **All funds must be spent and claims submitted by May 31, 2026.**
- **Submit the completed application form using the completed CTE Impact Grant Application Form (Google Forms).**

Questions or clarifications? Contact: John Engelking - jengelking@nescmn.net - 218-390-9860