

RIDE Career and Technical Education Programs: CTE Teacher Grants

Rhode Island Department of Education

Office of College and Career Readiness

Release Date: April 3, 2026

Application Due Date: May 8, 2026



RIDE Rhode Island
Department
of Education

As of 4/3/2026

Purpose of CTE Teacher Grants

The CTE Teacher Grants are designed to build a pipeline of qualified CTE teachers, and continuously improve the practice of the existing teacher workforce through professional learning. Leveraging part of the secondary Perkins V Reserve Funds to support the certification and the training of CTE teachers, LEAs may apply for these funds to pay for the costs associated with providing professional learning for CTE teachers and for reimbursing teachers for the cost of certification to teach in their CTE programs.

Application Timeline

Step	Date
Grant application released	April 3, 2026
Deadline for application submission	May 6, 2026 (5:00pm EST)
RIDE announces grant winners	Late May 2026

Grant Duration, Amounts, and Opportunities

While the need for CTE programming aligned to labor markets demands is high, we know that Rhode Island schools and districts are reporting significant shortages of CTE teachers. Therefore, to further strengthen the CTE teacher pipeline, and in response to district feedback, we are thrilled to be able to provide financial incentives for LEAs to attract, support, and retain talented CTE teachers, especially those with industry experience and in priority sectors. Not only does Rhode Island need a strong pipeline to get qualified CTE teachers in front of students, these teachers also need ongoing learning and professional development to be effective.

Depending on interest, demand, and quality of application, RIDE will award as many applications as possible. **Once awarded, please note that LEAs may not begin expenditure until FY25: July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.**

- For CTE teacher certification, RIDE will pay up to \$7,500 per teacher.
 - Note for teachers already in certification programs: *Grant funds may not be used to retroactively pay for a teacher’s tuition; only the balance of the program will be covered.*
- For CTE teacher professional development, RIDE will review applications as they are submitted and approve at RIDE’s discretion.

Funds will be awarded competitively, according to the application’s criteria. Therefore, RIDE may not be able to fund the total number of grants for which an LEA applies.



Possible Use of Funds:

Again, LEAs may apply for these grants to fund CTE teacher certification requirements, including costs associated with NOCTI exams and credential reviews, and/or to provide professional learning opportunities for their CTE teachers, including costs associated with professional development required for some CTE teachers to maintain industry-related certifications/credentials (e.g., PLTW). Additionally, these professional development funds may be used to cover costs associated with teachers' contractual rate for participating in the PD activity. However, please be aware that these funds may not be used to pay for costs associated with Emergency Teacher Certifications.

RIDE offers the following information for LEAs to consider for CTE teacher certification and professional development:

For CTE Teacher Certification:

- **CTE Teacher Certification—Roger Williams University:** This CTE Teacher Certification program is located at Roger Williams's University College and provides a competency-based education designed with working adults in mind. Assignments are designed to be practical, job-embedded, and closely connected to classroom learning. Micro-courses are held each month with additional learning experiences, resources, and assignments available at all times. **Cost for this certification program is \$7,300.** Please visit the [site](#) for all program application information. And please note that required NOCTI exams are approximately \$100 per exam.
 - This program runs for 12 months – from July 2026 through June 2027

For CTE Teacher Professional Learning:

- Priority will be given to professional learning activities aimed at supporting priority industry sectors (i.e., *Bioscience, Business, Construction, Defense, Education, Healthcare, Hospitality and Tourism, Industrial Design, Informational Technology, Manufacturing, and Marine Trades*). In short, professional learning must provide the CTE teacher with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively deliver the CTE program's curriculum to its students.
- Costs associated with professional development required to maintain industry-related certifications/credentials are allowable (e.g., funds may be used for teachers to receive mandatory training on PLTW curriculum requirements).
- Costs associated with covering teachers' contractual rate for participating in professional learning activities outside of the contractual teaching day.
- Middle to high school transition/feeder programming costs.

What Entities Are Eligible to Apply?

All Rhode Island local education agencies (LEAs) are eligible to apply.



Grant Priorities/Requirements

For CTE Teacher Certification:

For teacher certification requests, please complete all fields of the “Teacher Certification” spreadsheet tab.

CTE Teacher Grant SY2027 - Teacher Certification							
Instructions: Please complete this form to indicate any requests for Teacher Certification through the program at Roger Williams CTE Preparatory Initiative. This tab should be used exclusively for any request relating to teacher certification costs. You will see tabs available to complete additional requests for teacher certification and/or Professional Learning Opportunities.							
LEA Name:							
Teacher Certification Requests							
School Name	Teacher Name	# of Years Teaching at LEA	Career Cluster	Local CTE Program	Industry Standard	What is the required CTE Teacher Certificate Area Name for which this teacher is seeking certification?	What RIDE information

For CTE Teacher Professional Learning:

For teacher certification requests, please complete all fields of the “Professional Learning” spreadsheet tab.

CTE Teacher Grant SY2027 - Professional Learning					
Instructions: Please complete this form to indicate any requests for professional learning opportunities.					
LEA Name:					
CTE Professional Learning Opportunities					
Name of PL Provider	Brief description of PL activity	Career Cluster	Local CTE Program	Industry Standard	Indicate the U aligns to this



Submission Procedure

Applicants must submit their application using the linked spreadsheet located on the [CTE Funding section of the CTE website](#) under “Grant Opportunities” by 5pm on Wednesday, May 6, 2026.

Additional application materials are also located on the [CTE Funding section of the CTE website](#), including an alternative application process for those LEAs that may be in the process of hiring—or believe they will need to hire—for a vacant position in one of their CTE programs.

Please see the list below for application planning purposes. You will be required to submit this information on your official application:

1. Application Signature Sheet

- Superintendent signature
- CTE Director/Coordinator signature
- For CTE Teacher Certification:
 - Signatures of teacher(s) receiving funds for certification
 - Name of postsecondary certification program(s)
- For CTE Teacher Professional Learning:
 - Signatures of teacher(s) receiving professional learning
 - Copy of vendor/provider contract detailing scope of work for each professional learning activity offered

2. Teacher/PL Provider Information

- For CTE Teacher Certification:
 - Identification and information of each teacher recipient, including the following:
 - LEA information
 - Teacher information
 - Length of time the teacher has been working in the district and any other school-related experience, including teacher’s career cluster for which they are seeking certification
 - CTE Teacher’s RIDE certification information
- For CTE Teacher Professional Learning:
 - Identification and information of professional learning provider(s)
 - Required content offered for industry-related certification (e.g., PLTW). If the PL activity is not required to maintain industry-related credentials, identify how each professional learning activity will improve CTE teacher practice and student outcomes

3. Budget/Expenses Information

- Brief recap of prior cycle’s CTE Teacher Grant awarded funds status (if applicable)
- For CTE Teacher Certification:
 - Certification program information:
 - Costs per teacher for completing certification program (max: \$7,500)



- Again, funds will only cover the balance of the certification program, no retroactive funding
- Applicable UCOA account codes that align to CTE program area. [Please consult the manual for accurate identification.](#)
- For CTE Teacher Professional Learning (PL):
 - Professional Learning provider information:
 - Costs associated with each proposed professional learning opportunity
 - Breakdown of provider costs and teacher contractual rate/fringe
 - Applicable UCOA account codes that align to CTE program area. [Please consult the manual for accurate identification.](#)
 - Narrative responses articulating specifically how the proposed PL will be *relevant, differentiated, purposeful, and sustained* for CTE teachers. Be sure to include specific outcomes for the teachers participating in the PD.
 - Important to note: All professional learning must be in support of the CTE Board of Trustees (CTEBOT) standards that allow the program to operate.